EXHIBIT 1



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(54) ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

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		Crawley (AU)

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2320/33 (2013.01) (58) Field of Classification Search

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(57)ABSTRACT

An antisense molecule capable of binding to a selected target site to induce exon skipping in the dystrophin gene, as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 214.

2 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets

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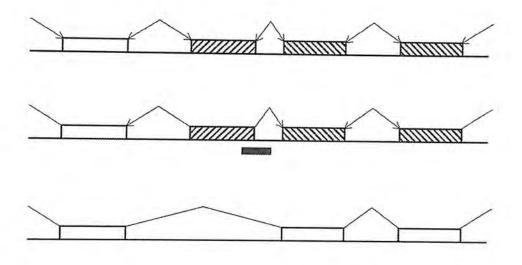


FIGURE 2

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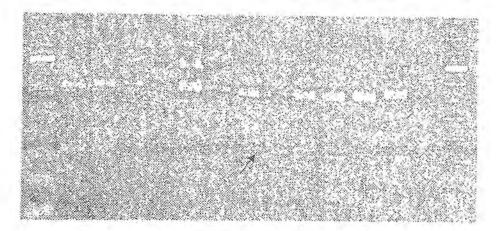


FIGURE 3

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H7A(+45+67) H7A(+2+26) M 600 300 100 50 20 600NM 600 300 100 50 20 600N M

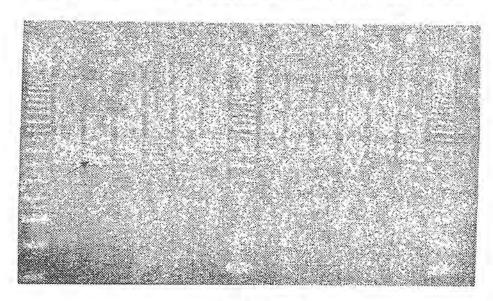


FIGURE 4

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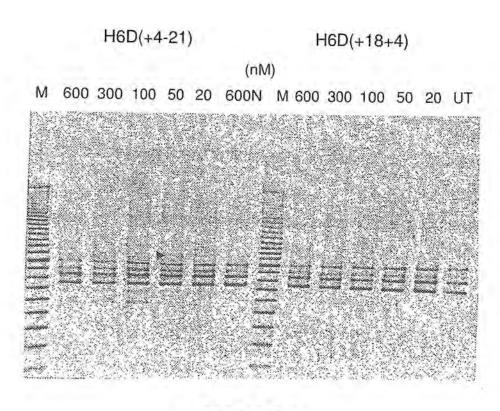
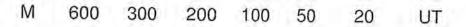


FIGURE 5

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6A(+69+91)



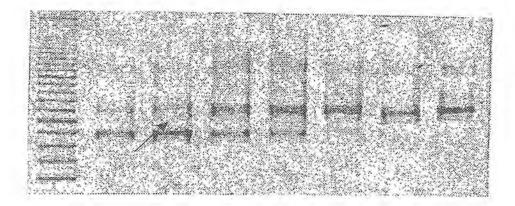


FIGURE 6

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H4A(+13+32)

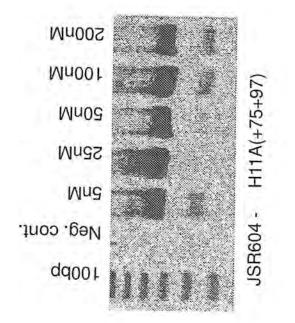
M 600 300 100 50 20 UT Neg M

FIGURE 7

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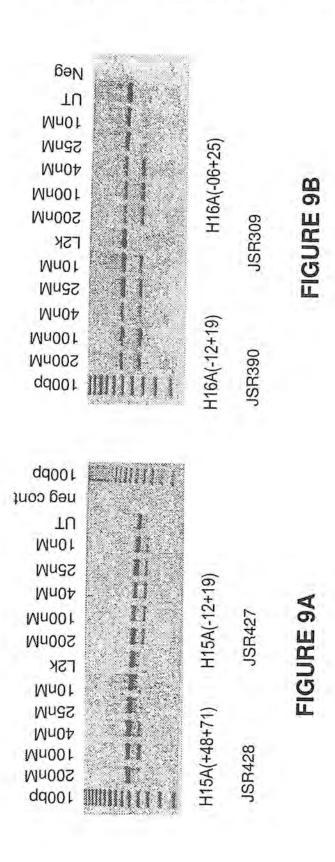
-IGURE 8B

JSR610 - H12A(+52+75)

FIGURE 8A

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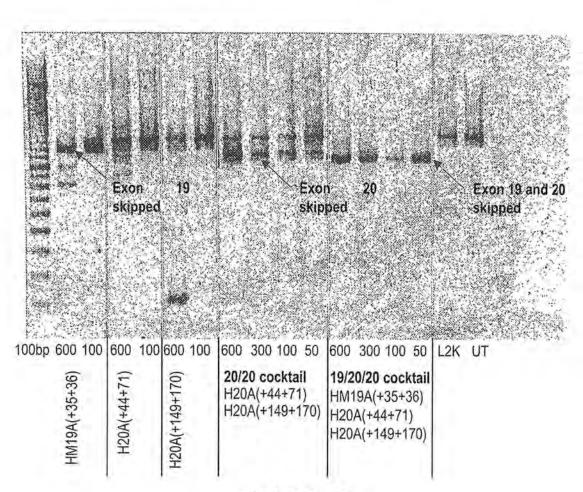
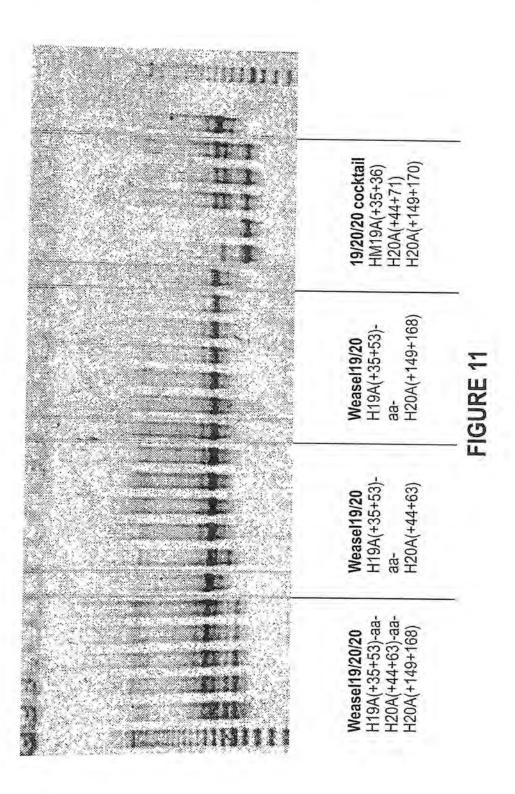


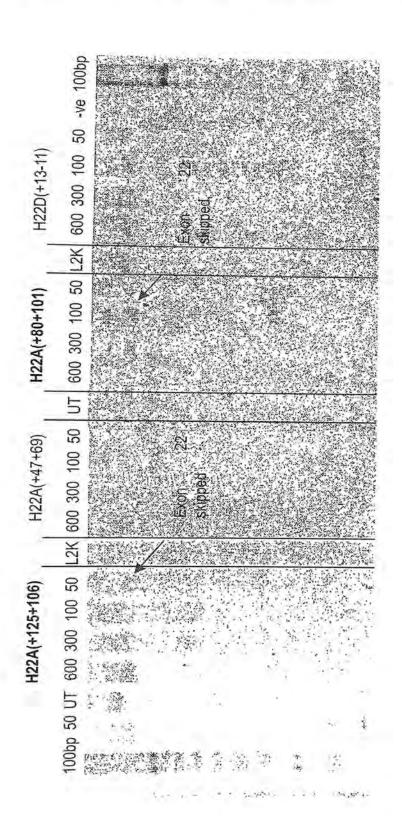
FIGURE 10

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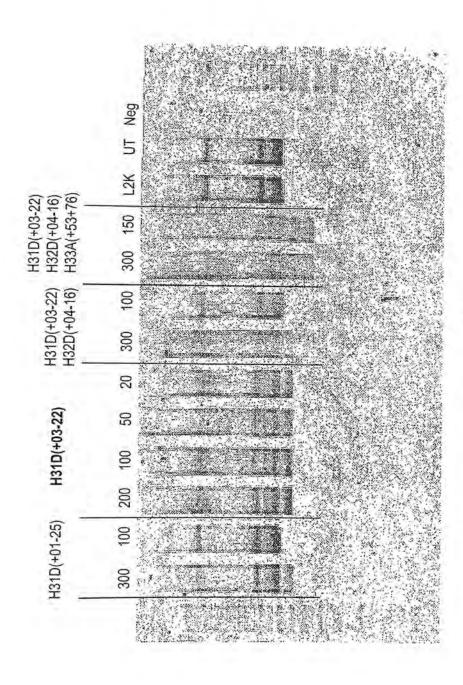
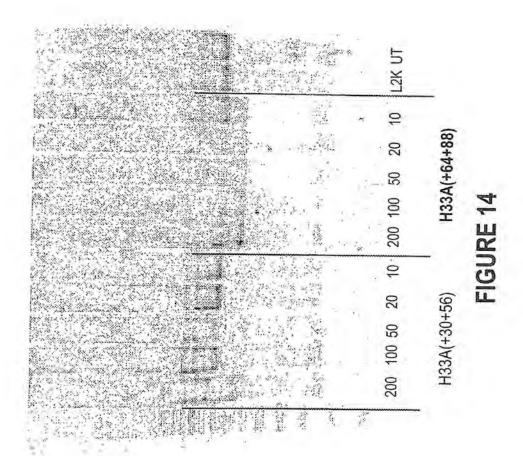
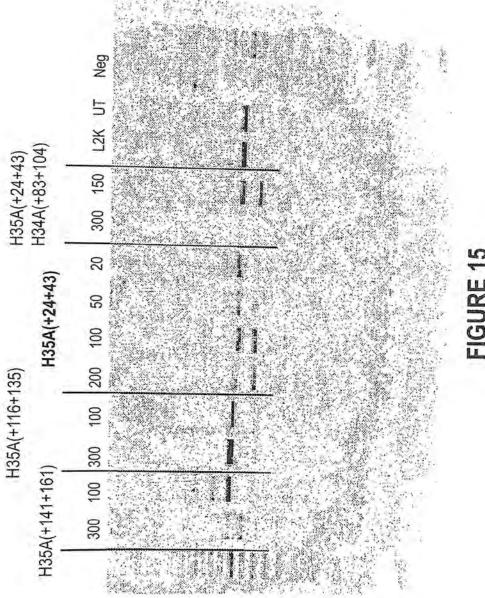


FIGURE 13

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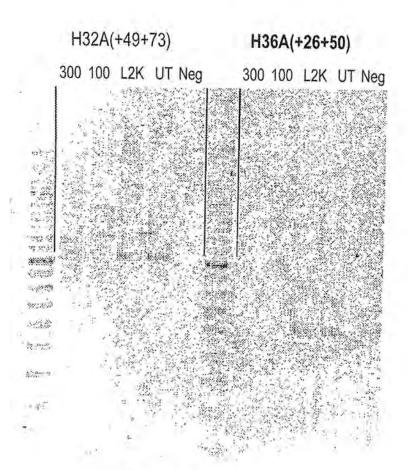
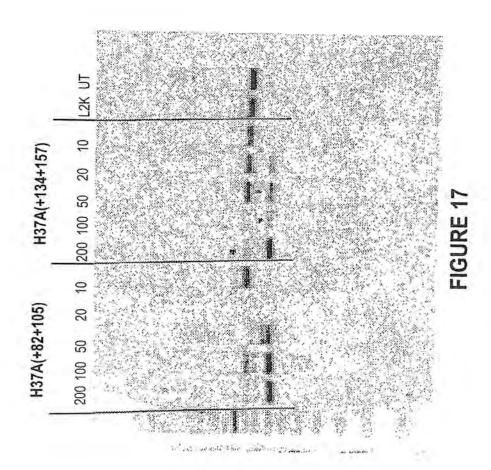


FIGURE 16

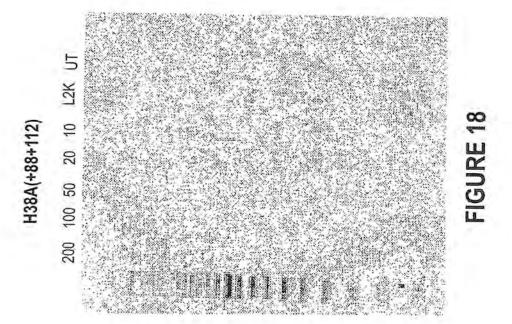
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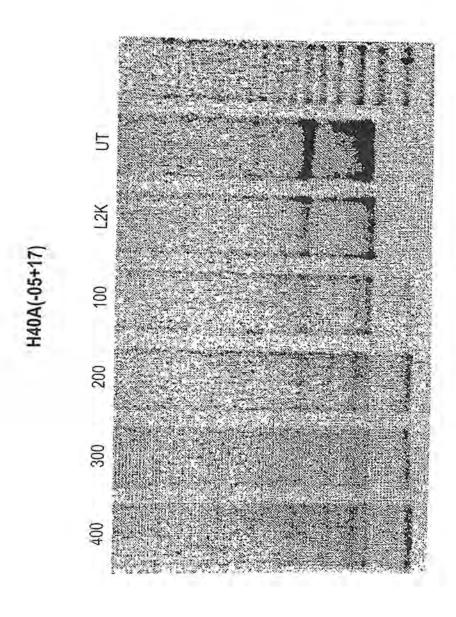
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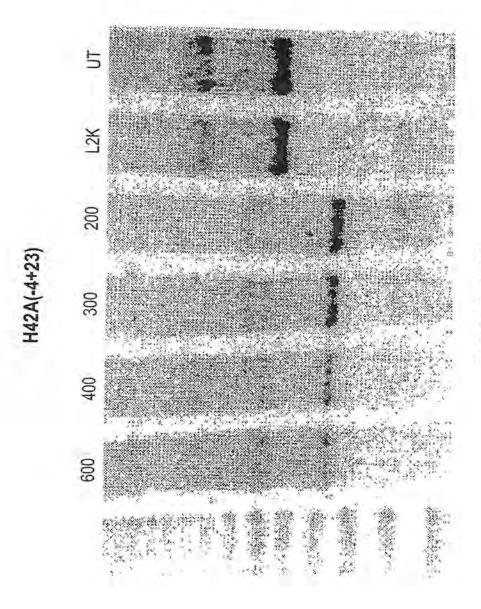
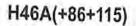


FIGURE 20

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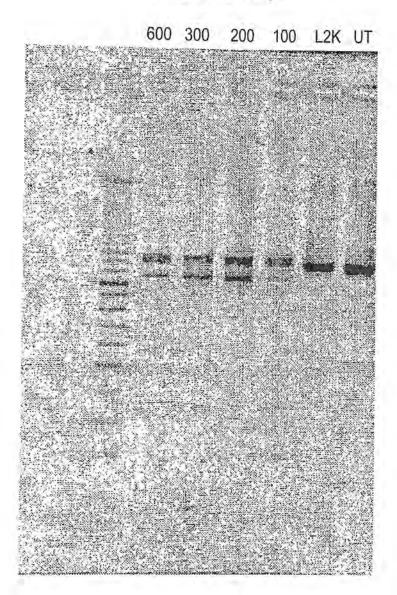


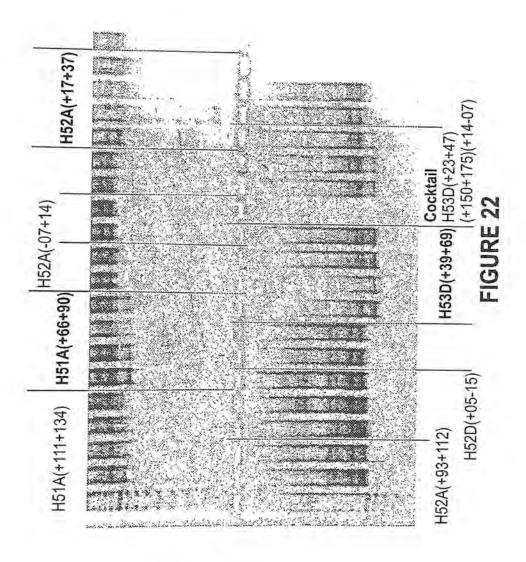
FIGURE 21

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ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/274,772, filed Sep. 23, 2016, now pending, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/740,097, filed Jun. 15, 2015, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 9,605,262, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/741,150, filed Jan. 14, 2013, now abandoned, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/168,857, filed Jun. 24, 15 2011, now abandoned, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/837,359, filed Jul. 15, 2010, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,232,384, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/570,691, filed Jan. 15, 2008, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 20 7,807,816, which application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Phase Application of PCT/AU2005/000943, filed Jun. 28, 2005, which claims priority to Australian Patent Application No. 2004903474, filed Jun. 28, 2004; which applications are each incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

STATEMENT REGARDING SEQUENCE LISTING

The Sequence Listing associated with the application is 30 provided in text format in lieu of a paper copy, and is hereby incorporated by reference into the specification. The name of the text file containing the Sequence Listing is AVN-008CN41_Sequence-Listing.txt. The text file is 62,086 Kilobytes, was created on Sep. 14, 2017 and is being submitted 35 tially spliced mRNA molecules. It has now been recognised electronically via EFS-Web.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel antisense com- 40 pounds and compositions suitable for facilitating exon skipping. It also provides methods for inducing exon skipping using the novel antisense compounds as well as therapeutic compositions adapted for use in the methods of the inven-

BACKGROUND ART

Significant effort is currently being expended researching methods for suppressing or compensating for disease-caus- 50 ing mutations in genes. Antisense technologies are being developed using a range of chemistries to affect gene expression at a variety of different levels (transcription, splicing, stability, translation). Much of that research has focused on the use of antisense compounds to correct or compensate for 55 abnormal or disease-associated genes in a myriad of differ-

Antisense molecules are able to inhibit gene expression with exquisite specificity and because of this many research efforts concerning oligonucleotides as modulators of gene 60 expression have focused on inhibiting the expression of targeted genes such as oncogenes or viral genes. The antisense oligonucleotides are directed either against RNA (sense strand) or against DNA where they form triplex structures inhibiting transcription by RNA polymerase II. To 65 achieve a desired effect in specific gene down-regulation, the oligonucleotides must either promote the decay of the tar-

geted mRNA or block translation of that mRNA, thereby effectively preventing de novo synthesis of the undesirable target protein.

Such techniques are not useful where the object is to up-regulate production of the native protein or compensate for mutations which induce premature termination of translation such as nonsense or frame-shifting mutations. Furthermore, in cases where a normally functional protein is prematurely terminated because of mutations therein, a means for restoring some functional protein production through antisense technology has been shown to be possible through intervention during the splicing processes (Sierakowska H, et al., (1996) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 93, 12840-12844; Wilton S D, et al., (1999) Neuromusc Disorders 9, 330-338; van Deutekom J C et al., (2001) Human Mol Genet 10, 1547-1554). In these cases, the defective gene transcript should not be subjected to targeted degradation so the antisense oligonucleotide chemistry should not promote target mRNA decay.

In a variety of genetic diseases, the effects of mutations on the eventual expression of a gene can be modulated through a process of targeted exon skipping during the splicing process. The splicing process is directed by complex multiparticle machinery that brings adjacent exon-intron junctions in pre-mRNA into close proximity and performs cleavage of phosphodiester bonds at the ends of the introns with their subsequent reformation between exons that are to be spliced together. This complex and highly precise process is mediated by sequence motifs in the pre-mRNA that are relatively short semi-conserved RNA segments to which bind the various nuclear splicing factors that are then involved in the splicing reactions. By changing the way the splicing machinery reads or recognises the motifs involved in pre-mRNA processing, it is possible to create differenthat the majority of human genes are alternatively spliced during normal gene expression, although the mechanisms invoked have not been identified. Using antisense oligonucleotides, it has been shown that errors and deficiencies in a coded mRNA could be bypassed or removed from the mature gene transcripts.

In nature, the extent of genetic deletion or exon skipping in the splicing process is not fully understood, although many instances have been documented to occur, generally at 45 very low levels (Sherrat T G, et al., (1993) Am J Hum Genet 53, 1007-1015). However, it is recognised that if exons associated with disease-causing mutations can be specifically deleted from some genes, a shortened protein product can sometimes be produced that has similar biological properties of the native protein or has sufficient biological activity to ameliorate the disease caused by mutations associated with the target exon (Lu Q L, et al., (2003) Nature Medicine 9, 1009-1014; Aartsma-Rus A et al., (2004) Am J Hum Genet 74: 83-92).

This process of targeted exon skipping is likely to be particularly useful in long genes where there are many exons and introns, where there is redundancy in the genetic constitution of the exons or where a protein is able to function without one or more particular exons (e.g. with the dystrophin gene, which consists of 79 exons; or possibly some collagen genes which encode for repeated blocks of sequence or the huge nebulin or titin genes which are comprised of ~80 and over 370 exons, respectively).

Efforts to redirect gene processing for the treatment of genetic diseases associated with truncations caused by mutations in various genes have focused on the use of antisense oligonucleotides that either: (1) fully or partially overlap

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with the elements involved in the splicing process; or (2) bind to the pre-mRNA at a position sufficiently close to the element to disrupt the binding and function of the splicing factors that would normally mediate a particular splicing reaction which occurs at that element (e.g., binds to the 5 pre-mRNA at a position within 3, 6, or 9 nucleotides of the element to be blocked).

For example, modulation of mutant dystrophin pre-mRNA splicing with antisense oligoribonucleotides has been reported both in vitro and in vivo. In one type of 10 dystrophin mutation reported in Japan, a 52-base pair deletion mutation causes exon 19 to be removed with the flanking introns during the splicing process (Matsuo et al., (1991) J Clin Invest., 87:2127-2131). An in vitro minigene splicing system has been used to show that a 31-mer 15 2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotide complementary to the 5' half of the deleted sequence in dystrophin Kobe exon 19 inhibited splicing of wild-type pre-mRNA (Takeshima et al. (1995), J. Clin. Invest., 95, 515-520). The same oligonucleotide was used to induce exon skipping from the native dystrophin gene transcript in human cultured lymphoblastoid cells.

Dunckley et al., (1997) Nucleosides & Nucleotides, 16, 1665-1668 described in vitro constructs for analysis of splicing around exon 23 of mutated dystrophin in the mdx mouse mutant, a model for muscular dystrophy. Plans to analyse these constructs in vitro using 2' modified oligonucleotides targeted to splice sites within and adjacent to mouse dystrophin exon 23 were discussed, though no target sites or sequences were given.

2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotides were subsequently reported to correct dystrophin deficiency in myoblasts from the mdx mouse from this group. An antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the 3' splice site of murine dystrophin intron 22 was reported to cause skipping of the mutant exon as well as several flanking exons and created a novel in-frame dystrophin transcript with a novel internal deletion. This mutated dystrophin was expressed in 1-2% of antisense treated mdx myotubes. Use of other oligonucleotide modifications such as 2'-O-methoxyethyl phosphodiesters are described (Dunckley et al. (1998) *Human Mol. Genetics*, 5, 1083-90).

Thus, antisense molecules may provide a tool in the treatment of genetic disorders such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). However, attempts to induce exon skipping using antisense molecules have had mixed success. Studies on dystrophin exon 19, where successful skipping of that exon from the dystrophin pre-mRNA was achieved using a variety of antisense molecules directed at the flanking splice sites or motifs within the exon involved in exon definition as described by Errington et al. (2003) J Gen Med 5, 518-527".

In contrast to the apparent ease of exon 19 skipping, the first report of exon 23 skipping in the mdx mouse by Dunckley et al., (1998) is now considered to be reporting only a naturally occurring revertant transcript or artefact rather than any true antisense activity. In addition to not consistently generating transcripts missing exon 23, Dunckley et al., (1998) did not show any time course of induced exon skipping, or even titration of antisense oligonucleotides, to demonstrate dose dependent effects where the levels of exon skipping corresponded with increasing or decreasing amounts of antisense oligonucleotide. Furthermore, this work could not be replicated by other researchers.

The first example of specific and reproducible exon skipping in the mdx mouse model was reported by Wilton et al., (1999) Neuromuscular Disorders 9, 330-338. By directing an antisense molecule to the donor splice site, consistent and efficient exon 23 skipping was induced in the dystrophin 65 mRNA within 6 hours of treatment of the cultured cells. Wilton et al., (1999), also describe targeting the acceptor

region of the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA with longer antisense oligonucleotides and being unable to repeat the published results of Dunckley et al., (1998). No exon skipping, either 23 alone or multiple removal of several flanking exons, could be reproducibly detected using a selection of antisense oligonucleotides directed at the acceptor splice site of intron 22.

While the first antisense oligonucleotide directed at the intron 23 donor splice site induced consistent exon skipping in primary cultured myoblasts, this compound was found to be much less efficient in immortalized cell cultures expressing higher levels of dystrophin. However, with refined targeting and antisense oligonucleotide design, the efficiency of specific exon removal was increased by almost an order of magnitude (see Mann C J et al., (2002) J Gen Med 4, 644-654).

Thus, there remains a need to provide antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to and modifying the splicing of a target nucleotide sequence. Simply directing the antisense oligonucleotides to motifs presumed to be crucial for splicing is no guarantee of the efficacy of that compound in a therapeutic setting.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides antisense molecule compounds and compositions suitable for binding to RNA motifs involved in the splicing of pre-mRNA that are able to induce specific and efficient exon skipping and a method for their use thereof.

The choice of target selection plays a crucial role in the efficiency of exon skipping and hence its subsequent application of a potential therapy. Simply designing antisense molecules to target regions of pre-mRNA presumed to be involved in splicing is no guarantee of inducing efficient and specific exon skipping. The most obvious or readily defined targets for splicing intervention are the donor and acceptor splice sites although there are less defined or conserved motifs including exonic splicing enhancers, silencing elements and branch points.

The acceptor and donor splice sites have consensus sequences of about 16 and 8 bases respectively (see FIG. 1 for schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splicing process).

According to a first aspect, the invention provides antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping.

For example, to induce exon skipping in exons 3 to 8, 10 to 16, 19 to 40, 42 to 44, 46, 47, and 50 to 53 in the Dystrophin gene transcript the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group listed in Table 1A.

In a further example, it is possible to combine two or more antisense oligonucleotides of the present invention together to induce multiple exon skipping in exons 19-20, and 53. This is a similar concept to targeting of a single exon. A combination or "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides are directed at adjacent exons to induce efficient exon skipping.

In another example, to induce exon skipping in exons 19-20, 31, 34 and 53 it is possible to improve exon skipping of a single exon by joining together two or more antisense oligonucleotide molecules. This concept is termed by the inventor as a "weasel", an example of a cunningly designed antisense oligonucleotide. A similar concept has been described in Aartsma-Rus A et al., (2004) Am J Hum Genet 74: 83-92).

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides antisense molecules selected and or adapted to aid in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a genetic disorder comprising at least an antisense molecule in a form suitable for delivery to a patient.

According to a third aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a patient suffering from a genetic disease wherein there is a mutation in a gene encoding a particular protein and the affect of the mutation can be abrogated by exon skipping, comprising the steps of: (a) selecting an antisense molecule in accordance with the methods described herein; and (b) administering the molecule to a patient in need of such treatment.

The invention also addresses the use of purified and isolated antisense oligonucleotides of the invention, for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of a genetic 10

The invention further provides a method of treating a condition characterised by Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of an appropriately designed antisense oligonucleotide of the invention, relevant 15 to the particular genetic lesion in that patient. Further, the invention provides a method for prophylactically treating a patient to prevent or at least minimise Duchene muscular dystrophy, comprising the step of: administering to the patient an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide or a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of 20 these biological molecules.

The invention also provides kits for treating a genetic disease, which kits comprise at least a antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention, packaged in a suitable con-

tainer and instructions for its use.

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the ensuing description, which proceeds with reference to the following figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 Schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splic-

ing process (SEQ ID NOS: 213 and 214).

FIG. 2 Diagrammatic representation of the concept of 35 antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping to by-pass disease-causing mutations (not drawn to scale). The hatched box represents an exon carrying a mutation that prevents the translation of the rest of the mRNA into a protein. The solid black bar represents an antisense oligonucleotide that prevents inclusion of that exon in the mature mRNA

FIG. 3 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. The preferred compound [H8A(-06+18)] induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured normal human muscle cells. The less preferred antisense oligonucleotide [H8A(-06+14)] also induces efficient exon skipping, but at much higher concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no detectable skipping at all (not shown).

FIG. 4 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at internal domains within exon 7, presumably exon splicing enhancers. The preferred compound [H7A(+45+67)] induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells. The less 55 preferred antisense oligonucleotide [H7A(+2+26)] induces only low levels of exon skipping at the higher transfection concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no detectable skipping at all (not shown).

FIG. 5 Gel electrophoresis showing an example of low 60 42. efficiency exon 6 skipping using two non-preferred antisense molecules directed at human exon 6 donor splice site. Levels of induced exon 6 skipping are either very low [H6D(+04-21)] or almost undetectable [H6D(+18-04)]. These are examples of non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides to 65 demonstrate that antisense oligonucleotide design plays a crucial role in the efficacy of these compounds.

FIG. 6 Gel electrophoresis showing strong and efficient human exon 6 skipping using an antisense molecules [H6A(+69+91)] directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle

FIG. 7 Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 4 skipping using an antisense molecule H4A(+13+32) directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells,

FIG. 8A Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 12 skipping using antisense molecule H12A(+52+75)

directed at exon 12 internal domain.

FIG. 8B Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 11 skipping using antisense molecule H11A(+75+97) directed at an exon 11 internal domain.

FIG. 9A Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 15 skipping using antisense molecules H15A(+48+71) and H15A(-12+19) directed at an exon 15 internal domain.

FIG. 9B Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 16 skipping using antisense molecules H16A(-12+19) and

H16A(-06+25).

FIG. 10 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using antisense molecules H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at an exon 20 and a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H19A(+35+65, H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at exons 19/20.

FIG. 11 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" directed at exons 19 and 20.

FIG. 12 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 22 skipping using antisense molecules H22A(+125+106), H22A(+47+ 69), H22A(+80+101) and H22D(+13-11) directed at exon

FIG. 13 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 31 skipping using antisense molecules H31D(+01-25) and H31D(+03-22); and a "cocktail" of antisense molecules directed at exon

FIG. 14 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 33 skipping 40 using antisense molecules H33A(+30+56) and H33A(+64+ 88) directed at exon 33.

FIG. 15 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 35 skipping using antisense molecules H35A(+141+161), H35A(+116+ 135), and H35A(+24+43) and a "cocktail of two antisense molecules, directed at exon 35.

FIG. 16 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 36 skipping using antisense molecules H32A(+49+73) and H36A(+26+ 50) directed at exon 36.

FIG. 17 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 37 skipping using antisense molecules H37A(+82+105) and H37A(+ 134+157) directed at exon 37.

FIG. 18 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 38 skipping using antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) directed at exon

FIG. 19 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 40 skipping using antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) directed at exon

FIG. 20 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 42 skipping using antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) directed at exon

FIG. 21 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 46 skipping using antisense molecule H46A(+86+115) directed a# exon

FIG. 22 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 51, exon 52 and exon 53 skipping using various antisense molecules directed at exons 51, 52 and 53, respectively. A "cocktail" of antisense molecules is also shown directed at exon 53.

- 4

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE LISTINGS

TABLE 1A

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonuclectides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonuclectides are more RNA- like, U represents uracil With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

ID	SEQUENCE	NUCI	EOT	DE S	EQUE	NCE	(51.	3')		
1	HBA (-06+18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG	UAA	
2	HBA (-03+18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG		
3	H8A(-07+18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG	UAA	G
4	H8A(-06+14)	GGU	GGU	AUC	AAC	AUC	UGU	AA		
5	H8A(-10+10)	GUA	UCA	ACĀ	UCU	GUA	AGC	AC		
6	H7A (+45+67)	UGC	AUG	uuc	CAG	UCG	UUG	UGU	GG	
7	H7A(+02+26)	CAC	UAU	ucc	AGU	CAA	AUA	GGU	CUG	G
В	H7D(+15-10)	AUU	UAC	CAA	CCU	UCA	GGA	UCG	AGU	A
9	H7A(-18+03)	GGC	CUA	AAA	CAC	AUA	CAC	AUA		
10	C6A(-10+10)	CAU	טטט	UGA	ccu	ACA	UGU	GG		
11	C6A(-14+06)	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GUG	GAA	AG		
12	C6A(-14+12)	UAC	AUU	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GUG	GAA	AG
13	C6A(-13+09)	AUU	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GGG	AAA	G	
14	CH6A(+69+91)	UAC	GAG	uug	AUU	GUC	GGA	ccc	AG	
15	C6D (+12-13)	GUG	GUC	UCC	UUA	ccu	AUG	ACU	GUG	G
16	C6D(+06-11)	GGU	cuc	cuu	ACC	UAU	GA			
17	H6D(+04-21)	UGU	CUC	AGU	AAU	cuu	cuu	ACC	UAU	
18	H6D(+18-04)	UCU	UAC	CUA	UGA	CUA	UGG	AUG	AGA	
19	H4A(+13+32)	GCA	UGA	ACU	cuu	GUG	GAU	CC		
	H4D(+04-16)	CCA	GGG	UAC	UAC	UUA	CAU	UA		
				UGU						
	H4D (-24-44)									AUC
22	H4A(+11+40)	COO	UCA	dou						
23	H3A(+30+60)			GCG	CCU	CCC	AUC	CUG	UAG	GUC
		ACU				200		COL	псс	ngu
24	H3A(+35+65)	AGG AGG		AGG	AGG	CGC	COC	LCA	, QCS	UGU
25	H3A(+30+54)			ccc	AUC	CUG	UAG	GUC	ACU	G
	TOTAL ON STATE	cuu								
	H3D(+46-21)	cuc								
27	H3A(+30+50)	UAC								
28	H3D(+19-03)									
29	H3A(-06+20)	UCA	AUA	UGC	UGC	000	CUM	acti	GUA	G
30	H3A(+37+61)	CUA	GGA	GGC	GCC	ucc	CAU	LCO	Jon	

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA- like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
31 H5A(+20+50)	UUA UGA UUU CCA UCU ACG AUG UCA GUA
32 H5D(+25-05)	CUU ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU AUA UUC
33 H5D(+10-15)	CAU CAG GAU UCU UAC CUG CCA GUG G
34 H5A(+10+34)	CGA UGU CAG UAC UUC CAA UAU UCA C
35 H5D(-04-21)	ACC AUU CAU CAG GAU UCU
36 HSD(+16-02)	ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU
37 H5A(-07+20)	CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA
38 H5D(+18-12)	CAG GAU UGU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU
39 H5A (+05+35)	ACG AUG UCA GUA CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU
40 H5A(+15+45)	AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC
41 H10A(-05+16)	CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA
42 H10A(-05+24)	CUU GUC UUC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA
43 H10A(+98+119)	UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G
44 HlOA(+130+149)	UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC
45 H10A(-33-14)	UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU
46 H11D(+26+49)	CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU
47 H11D(+11-09)	AGG ACU UAC DUG CUU UGU DU
48 H11A(+118+140)	CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG
49 H11A(+75+97)	CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU
50 H12A(+52+75)	UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA
51 H12A(-10+10)	UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU
52 H12A(+11+30)	UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC
53 H13A(+77+100)	CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG
54 H13A(+55+75)	UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU
55 H13D(+06-19)	CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G
56 H14A(+37+64)	CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U
57 H14A(+14+35)	CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C
58 H14A(+51+73)	GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC
59 H14D(-02+18)	ACC UGU UCU UCA GUA AGA CG
	CAU GAC ACA CCU GUU CUU CAG UAA
	CAU UUG AGA AGG AUG UCU UG
	AUC UCC CAA UAC CUG GAG AAG AGA

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA- like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
63 H15A(-12+19)	GCC AUG CAC UAA AAA GGC ACU GCA AGA
64 H15A(+48+71)	UCU UUA AAG CCA GUU GUG UGA AUC
65 H15A(+08+28)	UUU CUG AAA GCC AUG CAC UAA
66 H15D(+17-08)	GUA CAU ACG GCC AGU UUU UGA AGA C
67 H16A(-12+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AAA ACA A
68 H16A(-06+25)	UCU UUU CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU
69 H16A(+06+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A
70 H16A(+87+109)	CCG UCU UCU GGG UCA CUG ACU UA
71 H16A(-07+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA
72 H16A(-07+13)	CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA
73 H16A(+12+37)	UGG ADU GCU DUU UCU DUU CUA GAU CC
74 H16A(+92+116)	CAU GCU UCC GUC UUC UGG GUC ACU G
75 H16A(+45+67)	G AUC UUG UUU GAG UGA AUA CAG U
76 H16A(+105+126)	GUU AUC CAG CCA UGC UUC CGU C
77 H16D(+05-20)	UGA UAA UUG GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU G
78 H16D(+12-11)	GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU GCU GUA C
79 H19A(+35+53)	CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
BO H19A(+35+65)	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
31 H20A(+44+71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C
32 H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C
3 H20A(+185+203)	UGA UGG GGU GGU GGG UUG G
4 H20A(-0B+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA G
5 H20A(+30+53)	CCG GCU GUU CAG UUG UUC UGA GGC
6 H20A(-11+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA GAA A
7 H20D(+08-20)	GAA GGA GAA GAG AUU CUU ACC UUA CAA A
8 H20A(+44+63)	AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC
9 H20A(+149+168	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GC
0 H21A(-06+16)	GCC GGU UGA CUU CAU CCU GUG C
1 H21A(+85+106)	CUG CAU CCA GGA ACA UGG GUC C
2 H21A(+85+108)	GUC UGC AUC CAG GAA CAU GGG UC
3 H21A(+08+31)	GUU GAA GAU CUG AUA GCC GGU UGA
	UAC UUA CUG UCU GUA GCU CUU UCU
	CAC UCA UGG UCU CCU GAU AGC GCA

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA- like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

ID SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
96 H22A(+125+106)	CUG CAA UUC CCC GAG UCU CUG C
97 H22A(+47+69)	ACU GCU GGA CCC AUG UCC UGA UG
98 H22A(+80+101)	CUA AGU UGA GGU AUG GAG AGU
99 H22D(+13-11)	UAU UCA CAG ACC UGC AAU UCC CC
100 H23A(+34+59)	ACA GUG GUG CUG AGA UAG UAU AGG CC
101 H23A(+18+39)	UAG GCC ACU UUG UUG CUC UUG C
102 H23A(+72+90)	UUC AGA GGG CGC UUU CUU C
103 H24A(+48+70)	GGG CAG GCC AUU CCU CCU UCA GA
104 H24A(-02+22)	UCU UCA GGG UUU GUA UGU GAU UCU
105 H25A(+9+36)	CUG GGC UGA AUU GUC UGA AUA UCA CUG
106 H25A(+131+156)	CUG UUG GCA CAU GUG AUC CCA CUG AG
107 H25D(+16-08)	GUC UAU ACC UGU UGG CAC AUG UGA
108 H26A(+132+156)	
109 H26A(-07+19)	CCU CCU UUC UGG CAU AGA CCU UCC AC
110 H26A(+68+92)	UGU GUC AUC CAU UCG UGC AUC UCU G
111 H27A(+82+106)	UUA AGG CCU CUU GUG CUA CAG GUG G
112 H27A(-4+19)	GGG GCU CUU CUU UAG CUC UCU GA
113 H27D(+19-03)	GAC UUC CAA AGU CUU GCA UUU C
114 H28A(-05+19)	GCC AAC AUG CCC AAA CUU CCU AAG
115 H28A(+99+124)	CAG AGA UUU CCU CAG CUC CGC CAG GA
116 H28D(+16-05)	CUU ACA UCU AGC ACC UCA GAG
117 H29A(+57+81)	UCC GCC AUC UGU UAG GGU CUG UGC C
118 H29A(+18+42)	AUU DGG GUU AUC CUC UGA AUG UCG C
119 H29D(+17-05)	CAU ACC UCU UCA UGU AGU UCC C
120 H30A(+122+147)	CAU DUG AGC DGC GUC CAC CUU GUC UG
121 H30A(+25+50)	UCC UGG GCA GAC UGG AUG CUC UGU UC
122 H30D(+19-04)	UUG CCU GGG CUU CCU GAG GCA UU
	UUC UGA AAU AAC AUA UAC CUG UGC
	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G
	GAC UUG UCA AAU CAG AUU GGA
	GUU UCU GAA AUA ACA UAU ACC UGU
	CAC CAG AAA WAC AWA CCA CA
	CAA UGA UUU AGC UGU GAC UG
	CGA AAC UUC AUG GAG ACA UCU UG

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonuclectides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonuclectides are more RNA- like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

ID SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
130 H32A(+49+73)	CUU GUA GAC GCU GCU CAA AAU UGG C
131 H33D(+09-11)	CAU GCA CAC ACC UUU GCU CC
132 H33A(+53+76)	UCU GUA CAA UCU GAC GUC CAG UCU
133 H33A(+30+56)	GUC UUU AUC ACC AUU UCC ACU UCA GAC
134 H33A(+64+88)	CCG UCU GCU UUU UCU GUA CAA UCU G
135 H34A(+83+104)	
136 H34A(+143+165	
137 H34A(-20+10)	UUU CUG UUA CCU GAA AAG AAU UAU AAU GAA
138 H34A(+46+70)	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G
139 H34A(+95+120)	
140 H34D(+10-20)	UUC AGU GAU AUA GGU UUU ACC UUU CCC CAG
141 H34A(+72+96)	CUG UAG CUG CCA GCC AUU CUG UCA AG
142 H35A(+141+161)	UCU UCU GCU CGG GAG GUG ACA
143 H35A(+116+135)	CCA GUU ACU AUU CAG AAG AC
144 H35A(+24+43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU
145 H36A(+26+50)	UGU GAU GUG GUC CAC AUU CUG GUC A
146 H36A(-02+18)	CCA UGU GUU UCU GGU AUU CC
147 H37A(+26+50)	CGU GUA GAG UCC ACC UUU GGG CGU A
148 H37A(+82+105)	UAC UAA UUU CCU GCA GUG GUC ACC
149 H37A(+134+157)	UUC UGU GUG AAA UGG CUG CAA AUC
50 H38A(-01+19)	CCU UCA AAG GAA UGG AGG CC
51 H38A(+59+83)	UGC UGA AUU UCA GCC UCC AGU GGU U
52 H38A(+88+112)	UGA AGU CUU CCU CUU UCA GAU UCA C
53 H39A(+62+85)	CUG GCU UUC UCU CAU CUG UGA UUC
54 H39A(+39+58)	GUU GUA AGU UGU CUC CUC UU
55 H39A(+102+121)	UUG UCU GUA ACA GCU GCU GU
56 H39D(+10-10)	GCU CUA AUA CCU UGA GAG CA
57 H40A(-05+17)	CUU UGA GAC CUC AAA UCC UGU U
	CHO NAU NOU CON NUC AND NOU GGG C
	AUC GUU UCU UCA CGG ACA GUG UGC UGG
	GGG CUU GUG AGA CAU GAG UGA UUU
	A CCU UCA GAG GAC UCC UCU UGC
	UAU GUG UUA CCU ACC CUU GUC GGU C
	GGA GAG AGC DUC CUG DAG CU

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
164	H43A(+78+100)	UCA CCC UUU CCA CAG GCG UUG CA
165	H44A(+85+104)	UUU GUG UCU UUC UGA GAA AC
166	H44D(+10-10)	AAA GAC UUA CCU UAA GAU AC
167	H44A(-06+14)	AUC UGU CAA AUC GCC UGC AG
168	H46D(+16-04)	UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU CAA GC
169	H46A(+90+109)	UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU AC
170	H47A(+76+100)	GCU CUU CUG GGC UUA UGG GAG CAC U
171	H47D(+25-02)	ACC UUU AUC CAC UGG AGA UUU GUC UGC
172	H47A(-9+12)	UUC CAC CAG UAA CUG AAA CAG
173	H50A(+02+30)	CCA CUC AGA GCU CAG AUC UUC UAA CUU CC
174 1	350A(+07+33)	CUU CCA CUC AGA GCU CAG AUC UUC UAA
175 F	H50D(+07-18)	GGG AUC CAG UAU ACU UAC AGG CUC C
176 F	IS1A (-01+25)	ACC AGA GUA ACA GUC UGA GUA GGA GC
177 H	(51D(+16-07)	CUC AUA CCU UCU GCU UGA UGA UC
178 H	51A(+111 +134)	UUC UGU CCA AGC CCG GUU GAA AUC
179 H	51A(+61+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA GUU UGG
180 H	51A(+66+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA G
181 H	51A(+66+95)	CUC CAA CAU CAA GGA AGA UGG CAU UUC UAG
182 H	51D(+08-17)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC U
	51A/D(+08-17) (-15+)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC UAG GAG CUA AAA
184 HS	51A(+175+195)	CAC CCA CCA UCA CCC UCU GUG
185 HS	51A(+199+220)	AUC AUC UCG UUG AUA UCC UCA A
186 HS	52A(-07+14)	UCC UGC AUU GUU GCC UGU AAG
187 HS		UCC AAC UGG GGA CGC CUC UGU UCC AAA
188 H5	2A(+17+37)	ACU GGG GAC GCC UCU GUU CCA
		CCG UAA UGA UUG UUC UAG CC
		UGU WAA AAA ACU WAC WUC GA
		CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU G

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracilwith other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SE		SEQUENCE	NU	CLEO	TIDE			E (5			as "T".
19	2	H53A(+39+62)						J CUC			
19	3	H53A(+39+69)	CA								GAA
19	4	H53D(+14-07)	UAC	UA	A CCI	J UGO	s uut	J CUG	UGA		
19	5	H53A(+23+47)						UAC			c
19	6	H53A(+150+176									cuc
19	7	H53D(+20-05)						GUG			
198	3 1	H53D(+09-18)									nnc
199)]	H53A(-12+10)						AUA			
200	1	H53A(-07+18)	GAU	ucu	GAA	טטכ	טטט	CAA	CUA	GAA	U
201	1	H53A(+07+26)						AAU			
202	F	H53A(+124+145	UUG	GCU	CUG	GCC	UGU	ccu	AAG	A	
203	H	H46A(+86+115)	CUC	טטט	UCC	AGG	uuc	AAG	UGG	GAU	ACU
204	Н	H46A(+107+137)	CAA	GCU C	טטט	cuu	UUA	GUU	GCU	GCU	cuu
205	Н	446A(-10+20)	UAU AAG	ncn	טטט	GUU	cuu	CUA	GCC	UGG	AGA
206	Н	46A(+50+77)	CUG	CUU	CCU	CCA	ACC	AUA	AAA	CAA	AUU C
207	Н	45A(-06+20)	CCA	AUG	CCA	ucc	UGG	AGU	ucc	UGU	AA
208	Н	45A(+91 +110)	ucc	UGU	AGA	AUA	CUG	GCA	uc		
209	Н	45A(+125+151)	UGC	AGA	ccu	ccu	GCC	ACC	GCA	GAU	UCA
10	H	45D(+16 -04)	CUA	CCU	cuu	טטט	ucu	GUC	UG		
211	H	45A(+71+90)	UGU	טטט	UGA	GGA	UUG	CUG :	AA		

TABLE 1B

Description of a cocktail of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUC	LEOT	IDE	SEQU	ENCE	(5)	-3')		
81 H20A(+44+71)	CUG	GCA	GAA	UUC	GAU	CCA	CCG	gcu	
82 H20A(+147+168)	GUU CAG	C CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	ncn	GCU	c	
80 H19A(+35+65) 81 H20A(+44+71)	GCC	UGA	GCU	GAU	CUG	CUG	GCA	UCU	
82 H20A(+147+168)	1011	U GCA	GAA	UUC	GAU	CCA	CCG	GCU	
	GUU	C CAG	UAG	nnd	UCA	UCU	GCU	C	

TABLE 1B-continued

Description of a cocktail of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

	SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUC	LEOT	IDE :	SEQU	ENCE	(51	-3')	
60	194H53D(+14-07)	UAC	UAA	CCU	UGG	טטט	CUG	UGA	
	195H53A(+23+47)	CUG	AAG	GUG	UUC	UUG	UAC	UUC	AUC
5	196H53A(+150+175)	UGU	AUA	GGG	ACC	CUC	CUU	CCA	UGA

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TABLE 1C

Description of a "weasel" of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonuclectides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mpNA

SE	Q SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
	1 H2OA(+44+71) -	CUG GCA GAA DUG GAA
8	2 H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C
8	0 H19A(+35+65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
8	9 H20A(+44+63) -	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC-
7	9 H20A(+149+168)	CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
	H19A(+35+65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
88	H20A(+44+63)	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC-
80	H19A(+35+65) -	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
79	H20A(+149+168)	-CUG CUG GCA DCU UGC AGU U
138	H34A(+46+70) -	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G-
139	H34A(+94+120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG
	H31D(+03-22)- UU-	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G-
144	H35A(+24+43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU
195	H53A(+23+47) - AA-	CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C-
196	H53A(+150+175) -	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA UGA CUC-
na	100 A.	AA-
194	H53D(+14-07)	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA
÷	Aimed at exons	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU CAA CUG
212	19/20/20	GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU CAA
		GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUC GCA UCU UGC AGU

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

General

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variation and 45 modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps, features, compositions and compounds referred to or indicated in the specification, individually or collectively and any and all combinations or any two or more of the steps or features.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein, which are intended for the purpose of exemplification only. Functionally equivalent products, compositions and methods are clearly within the scope of the invention as described herein.

Sequence identity numbers (SEQ ID NO:) containing nucleotide and amino acid sequence information included in this specification are collected at the end of the description and have been prepared using the programme Patentln Version 3.0. Each nucleotide or amino acid sequence is identified in the sequence listing by the numeric indicator <210> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <210>1. <210>2, etc.). The length, type of sequence and source organism for each nucleotide or amino acid sequence are indicated by information provided in the numeric indicator 65 fields <211>, <212> and <213>, respectively. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences referred to in the specification are

defined by the information provided in numeric indicator field <400> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. 400>1, <400>2, etc.).

An antisense molecules nomenclature system was proposed and published to distinguish between the different antisense molecules (see Mann et al., (2002) *J Gen Med* 4, 644-654). This nomenclature became especially relevant when testing several slightly different antisense molecules, all directed at the same target region, as shown below:

H#A/D(x;y).

The first letter designates the species (e.g. H: human, M: 50 rnurine, C: canine) "#" designates target dystrophin exon number.

"A/D" indicates acceptor or donor splice site at the beginning and end of the exon, respectively.

(x y) represents the annealing coordinates where "-" or "+" indicate intronic or exonic sequences respectively. As an example, A(-6+18) would indicate the last 6 bases of the intron preceding the target exon and the first 18 bases of the target exon. The closest splice site would be the acceptor so these coordinates would be preceded with an "A". Describing annealing coordinates at the donor splice site could be D(+2-18) where the last 2 exonic bases and the first 18 intronic bases correspond to the annealing site of the antisense molecule. Entirely exonic annealing coordinates that would be represented by A(+65+85), that is the site between the 65th and 85th nucleotide from the start of that exon.

The entire disclosures of all publications (including patents, patent applications, journal articles, laboratory manu-

als, books, or other documents) cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference. No admission is made that any of the references constitute prior art or are part of the common general knowledge of those working in the field to which this invention relates.

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As used necessarily herein the term "derived" and "derived from" shall be taken to indicate that a specific integer may be obtained from a particular source albeit not directly from that source.

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires 10 otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

Other definitions for selected terms used herein may be 15 found within the detailed description of the invention and apply throughout. Unless otherwise defined, all other scientific and technical terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention belongs.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

When antisense molecule(s) are targeted to nucleotide sequences involved in splicing in exons within pre-mRNA 25 sequences, normal splicing of the exon may be inhibited causing the splicing machinery to by-pass the entire mutated exon from the mature mRNA. The concept of antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping is shown in FIG. 2. In many genes, deletion of an entire exon would lead to the 30 production of a non-functional protein through the loss of important functional domains or the disruption of the reading frame. In some proteins, however, it is possible to shorten the protein by deleting one or more exons, without disrupting the reading frame, from within the protein with- 35 out seriously altering the biological activity of the protein. Typically, such proteins have a structural role and or possess functional domains at their ends. The present invention describes antisense molecules capable of binding to specified dystrophin pre-mRNA targets and re-directing process- 40 ing of that gene.

Antisense Molecules

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping. To induce exon 45 skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1A. There is also provided a combination or "cocktail" of two or more antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to a selected target to induce 50 exon skipping. To induce exon skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules in a "cocktail" are preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1B. Alternatively, exon skipping may be induced by antisense oligonucleotides joined together 55 "weasels" preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1C.

Designing antisense molecules to completely mask consensus splice sites may not necessarily generate any skipping of the targeted exon. Furthermore, the inventors have 60 discovered that size or length of the antisense oligonucleotide itself is not always a primary factor when designing antisense molecules. With some targets such as exon 19, antisense oligonucleotides as short as 12 bases were able to induce exon skipping, albeit not as efficiently as longer 65 (20-31 bases) oligonucleotides. In some other targets, such as murine dystrophin exon 23, antisense oligonucleotides

only 17 residues long were able to induce more efficient skipping than another overlapping compound of 25 nucleo-

The inventors have also discovered that there does not appear to be any standard motif that can be blocked or masked by antisense molecules to redirect splicing. In some exons, such as mouse dystrophin exon 23, the donor splice site was the most amenable to target to re-direct skipping of that exon. It should be noted that designing and testing a series of exon 23 specific antisense molecules to anneal to overlapping regions of the donor splice site showed considerable variation in the efficacy of induced exon skipping. As reported in Mann et al., (2002) there was a significant variation in the efficiency of bypassing the nonsense mutation depending upon antisense oligonucleotide annealing ("Improved antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping in the mdx mouse model of muscular dystrophy". J Gen Med 4: 644-654). Targeting the acceptor site of exon 23 or several internal domains was not found to induce any 20 consistent exon 23 skipping.

In other exons targeted for removal, masking the donor splice site did not induce any exon skipping. However, by directing antisense molecules to the acceptor splice site (human exon 8 as discussed below), strong and sustained exon skipping was induced. It should be noted that removal of human exon 8 was tightly linked with the co-removal of exon 9. There is no strong sequence homology between the exon 8 antisense oligonucleotides and corresponding regions of exon 9 so it does not appear to be a matter of cross reaction. Rather the splicing of these two exons is inextricably linked. This is not an isolated instance as the same effect is observed in canine cells where targeting exon 8 for removal also resulted in the skipping of exon 9. Targeting exon 23 for removal in the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA also results in the frequent removal of exon 22 as well. This effect occurs in a dose dependent manner and also indicates close coordinated processing of 2 adjacent exons.

In other targeted exons, antisense molecules directed at the donor or acceptor splice sites did not induce exon skipping while annealing antisense molecules to intra-exonic regions (i.e. exon splicing enhancers within human dystrophin exon 6) was most efficient at inducing exon skipping. Some exons, both mouse and human exon 19 for example, are readily skipped by targeting antisense molecules to a variety of motifs. That is, targeted exon skipping is induced after using antisense oligonucleotides to mask donor and acceptor splice sites or exon splicing enhancers.

To identify and select antisense oligonucleotides suitable for use in the modulation of exon skipping, a nucleic acid sequence whose function is to be modulated must first be identified. This may be, for example, a gene (or mRNA transcribed form the gene) whose expression is associated with a particular disorder or disease state, or a nucleic acid molecule from an infectious agent. Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites, or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites for modulation of mRNA splicing.

Preferably, the present invention aims to provide antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping. Duchenne muscular dystrophy arises from mutations that preclude the synthesis of a functional dystrophin gene product. These Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene defects are typically nonsense mutations or genomic

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rearrangements such as deletions, duplications or microdeletions or insertions that disrupt the reading frame. As the human dystrophin gene is a large and complex gene with the 79 exons being spliced together to generate a mature mRNA with an open reading frame of approximately 11,000 bases, 5 there are many positions where these mutations can occur. Consequently, a comprehensive antisense oligonucleotide based therapy to address many of the different diseasecausing mutations in the dystrophin gene will require that many exons can be targeted for removal during the splicing 10 process.

Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition 15 sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites

for modulation of mRNA splicing.

The oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA are complementary to each other when a sufficient number of corresponding positions in each molecule are occupied by nucleo- 20 tides which can hydrogen bond with each other. Thus, "specifically hybridisable" and "complementary" are terms which are used to indicate a sufficient degree of complementarity or precise pairing such that stable and specific binding occurs between the oligonucleotide and the DNA or 25 RNA target. It is understood in the art that the sequence of an antisense molecule need not be 100% complementary to that of its target sequence to be specifically hybridisable, An antisense molecule is specifically hybridisable when binding of the compound to the target DNA or RNA molecule 30 interferes with the normal function of the target DNA or RNA to cause a loss of utility, and there is a sufficient degree of complementarity to avoid non-specific binding of the antisense compound to non-target sequences under conditions in which specific binding is desired, i.e., under physi- 35 ological conditions in the case of in vivo assays or therapeutic treatment, and in the case of in vitro assays, under conditions in which the assays are performed.

While the above method may be used to select antisense molecules capable of deleting any exon from within a 40 protein that is capable of being shortened without affecting its biological function, the exon deletion should not lead to a reading frame shift in the shortened transcribed mRNA. Thus, if in a linear sequence of three exons the end of the first exon encodes two of three nucleotides in a codon and 45 the next exon is deleted then the third exon in the linear sequence must start with a single nucleotide that is capable of completing the nucleotide triplet for a codon. If the third exon does not commence with a single nucleotide there will be a reading frame shift that would lead to the generation of 50 truncated or a non-functional protein.

It wilt be appreciated that the codon arrangements at the end of exons in structural proteins may not always break at the end of a codon, consequently there may be a need to delete more than one exon from the pre-mRNA to ensure 55 in-frame reading of the mRNA. In such circumstances, a plurality of antisense oligonucleotides may need to be selected by the method of the invention wherein each is directed to a different region responsible for inducing splicing in the exons that are to be deleted.

The length of an antisense molecule may vary so long as it is capable of binding selectively to the intended location within the pre-mRNA molecule. The length of such sequences can be determined in accordance with selection procedures described herein. Generally, the antisense mol- 65 ecule will be from about 10 nucleotides in length up to about 50 nucleotides in length. It will be appreciated however that

any length of nucleotides within this range may be used in the method. Preferably, the length of the antisense molecule is between 17 to 30 nucleotides in length.

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In order to determine which exons can be connected in a dystrophin gene, reference should be made to an exon boundary map. Connection of one exon with another is based on the exons possessing the same number at the 3' border as is present at the 5' border of the exon to which it is being connected. Therefore, if exon 7 were deleted, exon 6 must connect to either exons 12 or 18 to maintain the reading frame. Thus, antisense oligonucleotides would need to be selected which redirected splicing for exons 7 to 11 in the first instance or exons 7 to 17 in the second instance. Another and somewhat simpler approach to restore the reading frame around an exon 7 deletion would be to remove the two flanking exons. Induction of exons 6 and 8 skipping should result in an in-frame transcript with the splicing of exons 5 to 9. In practise however, targeting exon 8 for removal from the pre-mRNA results in the co-removal of exon 9 so the resultant transcript would have exon 5 joined to exon 10. The inclusion or exclusion of exon 9 does not alter the reading frame. Once the antisense molecules to be tested have been identified, they are prepared according to standard techniques known in the art. The most common method for producing antisense molecules is the methylation of the 2' hydroxyribose position and the incorporation of a phosphorothioate backbone produces molecules that superficially resemble RNA but that are much more resistant to nuclease degradation.

To avoid degradation of pre-mRNA during duplex formation with the antisense molecules, the antisense molecules used in the method may be adapted to minimise or prevent cleavage by endogenous RNase H. This property is highly preferred as the treatment of the RNA with the unmethylated oligonucleotides either intracellularly or in crude extracts that contain RNase H leads to degradation of the pre-mRNA: antisense oligonucleotide duplexes. Any form of modified antisense molecules that is capable of bypassing or not inducing such degradation may be used in the present method. An example of antisense molecules which when duplexed with RNA are not cleaved by cellular RNase H is 2'-O-methyl derivatives. 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotides are very stable in a cellular environment and in animal tissues, and their duplexes with RNA have higher Tm

values than their ribo- or deoxyribo-counterparts. Antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H can be made in accordance with known techniques (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,149,797). Such antisense molecules, which may be deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide sequences, simply contain any structural modification which sterically hinders or prevents binding of RNase H to a duplex molecule containing the oligonucleotide as one member thereof, which structural modification does not substantially hinder or disrupt duplex formation. Because the portions of the oligonucleotide involved in duplex formation are substantially different from those portions involved in RNase H binding thereto, numerous antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H are available. For example, such antisense molecules may be oligonucleotides wherein at least one, or 60 all, of the inter-nucleotide bridging phosphate residues are modified phosphates, such as methyl phosphonates, methyl phosphorothioates, phosphoromorpholidates, phosphoropiperazidates and phosphoramidates. For example, every other one of the internucleotide bridging phosphate residues may be modified as described. In another non-limiting example, such antisense molecules are molecules wherein at least one, or all, of the nucleotides contain a 2' lower alkyl

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moiety (e.g., C_1 - C_4 , linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, such as methyl, ethyl, ethenyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, and isopropyl). For example, every other one of the nucleotides may be modified as described.

While antisense oligonucleotides are a preferred form of 5 the antisense molecules, the present invention comprehends other oligomeric antisense molecules, including but not limited to oligonucleotide mimetics such as are described below.

Specific examples of preferred antisense compounds useful in this invention include oligonucleotides containing modified backbones or non-natural inter-nucleoside linkages. As defined in this specification, oligonucleotides having modified backbones include those that retain a phosphorus atom in the backbone and those that do not have a phosphorus atom in the backbone. For the purposes of this specification, and as sometimes referenced in the art, modified oligonucleotides that do not have a phosphorus atom in their inter-nucleoside backbone can also be considered to be oligonucleosides.

In other preferred oligonucleotide mimetics, both the sugar and the inter-nucleoside linkage, i.e., the backbone, of the nucleotide units are replaced with novel groups. The base units are maintained for hybridization with an appropriate nucleic acid target compound. One such oligomeric compound, an oligonucleotide mimetic that has been shown to have excellent hybridization properties, is referred to as a peptide nucleic acid (PNA). In PNA compounds, the sugarbackbone of an oligonucleotide is replaced with an amide containing backbone, in particular an aminoethylglycine 30 backbone. The nucleo-bases are retained and are bound directly or indirectly to aza nitrogen atoms of the amide portion of the backbone.

Modified oligonucleotides may also contain one or more substituted sugar moieties. Oligonucleotides may also 35 include nucleobase (often referred to in the art simply as "base") modifications or substitutions. Certain nucleo-bases are particularly useful for increasing the binding affinity of the oligomeric compounds of the invention. These include 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2, N-6 and O-6 substituted purines, including 2-aminopropyladenine. 5-propynyluracil and 5-propynylcytosine. 5-methylcytosine substitutions have been shown to increase nucleic acid duplex stability by 0.6-1.2° C. and are presently preferred base substitutions, even more particularly when combined with 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar modifications.

Another modification of the oligonucleotides of the invention involves chemically linking to the oligonucleotide one or more moieties or conjugates that enhance the activity, cellular distribution or cellular uptake of the oligonucleotide. Such moieties include but are not limited to lipid moieties such as a cholesterol moiety, cholic acid, a thioether, e.g., hexyl-S-tritylthiol, a thiocholesterol, an aliphatic chain, e.g., dodecandiol or undecyl residues, a phospholipid, e.g., di-hexadecyl-rac-glycerol or triethylammonium 1,2-di-O-hexadecyl-rac-glycero-3-H-phosphonate, a polyamine or a polyethylene glycol chain, or adamantane acetic acid, a palmityl moiety, or an octadecylamine or hexylamino-carbonyl-oxycholesterol moiety.

It is not necessary far all positions in a given compound to be uniformly modified, and in fact more than one of the aforementioned modifications may be incorporated in a single compound or even at a single nucleoside within an oligonucleotide. The present invention also includes antisense compounds that are chimeric compounds. "Chimeric" 65 antisense compounds or "chimeras," in the context of this invention, are antisense molecules, particularly oligonucle-

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otides, which contain two or more chemically distinct regions, each made up of at least one monomer unit, i.e., a nucleotide in the case of an oligonucleotide compound. These oligonucleotides typically contain at least one region wherein the oligonucleotide is modified so as to confer upon the increased resistance to nuclease degradation, increased cellular uptake, and an additional region for increased binding affinity for the target nucleic acid.

Methods of Manufacturing Antisense Molecules

The antisense molecules used in accordance with this invention may be conveniently and routinely made through the well-known technique of solid phase synthesis. Equipment for such synthesis is sold by several vendors including, for example, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, Calif.). One method for synthesising oligonucleotides on a modified solid support is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,458,066.

Any other means for such synthesis known in the art may additionally or alternatively be employed. It is well known to use similar techniques to prepare oligonucleotides such as 20 the phosphorothioates—and alkylated derivatives. In one such automated embodiment, diethyl-phosphoramidites are used as starting materials and may be synthesized as described by Beaucage, et al., (1981) Tetrahedron Letters, 22:1859-1862.

The antisense molecules of the invention are synthesised in vitro and do not include antisense compositions of biological origin, or genetic vector constructs designed to direct the in vivo synthesis of antisense molecules. The molecules of the invention may also be mixed, encapsulated, conjugated or otherwise associated with other molecules, molecule structures or mixtures of compounds, as for example, liposomes, receptor targeted molecules, oral, rectal, topical or other formulations, for assisting in uptake, distribution and/or absorption.

5 Therapeutic Agents

The present invention also can be used as a prophylactic or therapeutic, which may be utilised for the purpose of treatment of a genetic disease.

Accordingly, in one embodiment the present invention provides antisense molecules that bind to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping described herein in a therapeutically effective amount admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

The phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable" refers to molecular entities and compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce an allergic or similarly untoward reaction, such as gastric upset and the like, when administered to a patient. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, adjuvant, excipient, or vehicle with which the compound is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, such as water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water or saline solutions and aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions are preferably employed as carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in Martin, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., (1990).

In a more specific form of the invention there are provided pharmaceutical compositions comprising therapeutically effective amounts of an antisense molecule together with pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers. Such compositions include diluents of various buffer content (e.g., Tris-HCl, acetate, phosphate), pH and ionic strength and additives such as detergents and solubilizing agents (e.g.,

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Tween 80, Polysorbate 80), anti-oxidants (e.g., ascorbic acid, sodium metabisulfite), preservatives (e.g., Thimersol, benzyl alcohol) and bulking substances (e.g., lactose, mannitol). The material may be incorporated into particulate preparations of polymeric compounds such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, etc. or into liposomes. Hylauronic acid may also be used. Such compositions may influence the physical state, stability, rate of in vivo release, and rate of in vivo clearance of the present proteins and derivatives. See, e.g., Martin, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th 10 Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa. 18042) pages 1435-1712 that are herein incorporated by reference. The compositions may be prepared in liquid form, or may be in dried powder, such as lyophilised form.

It will be appreciated that pharmaceutical compositions 15 provided according to the present invention may be administered by any means known in the art. Preferably, the pharmaceutical compositions for administration are administered by injection, orally, or by the pulmonary, or nasal route. The antisense molecules are more preferably delivered by intravenous, intra-arterial, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, or subcutaneous routes of administration.

Antisense Molecule Based Therapy

Also addressed by the present invention is the use of antisense molecules of the present invention, for manufac- 25 ture of a medicament for modulation of a genetic disease.

The delivery of a therapeutically useful amount of antisense molecules may be achieved by methods previously published. For example, intracellular delivery of the antisense molecule may be via a composition comprising an 30 admixture of the antisense molecule and an effective amount of a block copolymer. An example of this method is described in US patent application US 20040248833.

Other methods of delivery of antisense molecules to the nucleus are described in Mann C J et al., (2001) ["Antisense-35 induced exon skipping and the synthesis of dystrophin in the mdx mouse". Proc., Natl. Acad. Science, 98(1) 42-47J and in Gebski et al., (2003). Human Molecular Genetics, 12(15): 1801-1811.

A method for introducing a nucleic acid molecule into a 40 cell by way of an expression vector either as naked DNA or complexed to lipid carriers, is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6.806.084.

It may be desirable to deliver the antisense molecule in a colloidal dispersion system. Colloidal dispersion systems 45 include macromolecule complexes, nanocapsules, microspheres, beads, and lipid-based systems including oil-inwater emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes or liposome formulations.

Liposomes are artificial membrane vesicles which are 50 useful as delivery vehicles in vitro and in vivo. These formulations may have net cationic, anionic or neutral charge characteristics and are useful characteristics with in vitro, in vivo and ex vivo delivery methods. It has been shown that large unilamellar vesicles (LUV), which range in 55 size from 0.2-4.0.PHI.m can encapsulate a substantial percentage of an aqueous buffer containing large macromolecules. RNA, and DNA can be encapsulated within the aqueous interior and be delivered to cells in a biologically active form (Fraley, et al., Trends Biochem. Sci., 6:77, 60 1981).

In order for a liposome to be an efficient gene transfer vehicle, the following characteristics should be present: (1) encapsulation of the antisense molecule of interest at high efficiency while not compromising their biological activity; 65 (2) preferential and substantial binding to a target cell in comparison to non-target cells; (3) delivery of the aqueous

contents of the vesicle to the target cell cytoplasm at high efficiency; and (4) accurate and effective expression of genetic information (Mannino, et al., Biotechniques, 6:682, 1988).

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The composition of the liposome is usually a combination of phospholipids, particularly high-phase-transition-temperature phospholipids, usually in combination with steroids, especially cholesterol. Other phospholipids or other lipids may also be used. The physical characteristics of liposomes depend on pH, ionic strength, and the presence of divalent cations.

Alternatively, the antisense construct may be combined with other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents to produce a pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers and diluents include isotonic saline solutions, for example phosphate-buffered saline. The composition may be formulated for parenteral, intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, intraocular, oral or transdermal administration.

The routes of administration described are intended only as a guide since a skilled practitioner will be able to determine readily the optimum route of administration and any dosage for any particular animal and condition. Multiple approaches for introducing functional new genetic material into cells, both in vitro and in vivo have been attempted (Friedmann (1989) Science, 244:1275-1280).

These approaches include integration of the gene to be expressed into modified retroviruses (Friedmann (1989) supra; Rosenberg (1991) Cancer Research 51(18), suppl.: 5074S-5079S); integration into non-retrovirus vectors (Rosenfeld, et al. (1992) Cell, 68:143-155; Rosenfeld, et al. (1991) Science, 252:431-434); or delivery of a transgene linked to a heterologous promoter-enhancer element via liposomes (Friedmann (1989), supra; Brigham, et al. (1989) Am. J. Med. Sci., 298:278-281; Nabel, et al. (1990) Science, 249:1285-1288; Hazinski, et al. (1991) Am. J. Resp. Cell Molec. Biol., 4:206-209; and Wang and Huang (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA), 84:7851-7855); coupled to ligandspecific, cation-based transport systems (Wu and Wu (1988) J. Biol. Chem., 263:14621-14624) or the use of naked DNA. expression vectors (Nabel et al. (1990), supra); Wolff et al. (1990) Science, 247:1465-1468). Direct injection of transgenes into tissue produces only localized expression (Rosenfeld (1992) supra); Rosenfeld et al. (1991) supra; Brigham et al. (1989) supra; Nabel (1990) supra; and Hazinski et al. (1991) supra). The Brigham et al. group (Am. J. Med. Sci. (1989) 298:278-281 and Clinical Research (1991) 39 (abstract)) have reported in vivo transfection only of lungs of mice following either intravenous or intratracheal administration of a DNA liposome complex. An example of a review article of human gene therapy procedures is: Anderson, Science (1992) 256:808-813.

The antisense molecules of the invention encompass any pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, or salts of such esters, or any other compound which, upon administration to an animal including a human, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) the biologically active metabolite or residue thereof. Accordingly, for example, the disclosure is also drawn to prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such pro-drugs, and other bioequivalents.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention: i.e., salts that retain the desired biological activity of the parent compound and do not impart undesired toxicological effects thereto.

For oligonucleotides, preferred examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts include but are not limited to (a) salts

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formed with cations such as sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, polyamines such as spermine and spermidine, etc.; (b) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids, for example hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid and the like; (c) salts formed with organic acids such as, for example, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, malefic acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, citric acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid, benzoic acid, tannic acid, palmitic acid, alginic acid, polygiutamic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acid, polygalacturonic acid, and the like; and (d) salts formed from elemental anions such as chlorine, bromine, and iodine. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered in a number of ways 15 depending upon whether local or systemic treatment is desired and upon the area to be treated. Administration may be topical (including ophthalmic and to mucous membranes including rectal delivery), pulmonary, e.g., by inhalation or insufflation of powders or aerosols, (including by nebulizer, 20 intratracheal, intranasal, epidermal and transdermal), oral or parenteral. Parenteral administration includes intravenous, intra-arterial, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal or intramuscular injection or infusion; or intracranial, e.g., intrathecal or intraventricular, administration. Oligonucleotides with at 25 least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification are believed to be particularly useful for oral administration.

The pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention, which may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form, may be prepared according to conventional techniques well 30 known in the pharmaceutical industry. Such techniques include the step of bringing into association the active ingredients with the pharmaceutical carrier(s) or excipient (s). In general the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

Kits of the Invention

The invention also provides kits for treatment of a patient with a genetic disease which kit comprises at least an 40 antisense molecule, packaged in a suitable container, together with instructions for its use.

In a preferred embodiment, the kits will contain at least one antisense molecule as shown in Table 1A, or a cocktail of antisense molecules as shown in Table 1B or a "weasel" 45 compound as shown in Table 1C. The kits may also contain peripheral reagents such as buffers, stabilizers, etc.

Those of ordinary skill in the field should appreciate that applications of the above method has wide application for identifying antisense molecules suitable for use in the treatment of many other diseases.

EXAMPLES

The following Examples serve to more fully describe the 55 manner of using the above-described invention, as well as to set forth the best modes contemplated for carrying out various aspects of the invention. It is understood that these Examples in no way serve to limit the true scope of this invention, but rather are presented for illustrative purposes. 60 The references cited herein are expressly incorporated by reference.

Methods of molecular cloning, immunology and protein chemistry, which are not explicitly described in the following examples, are reported in the literature and are known by 65 those skilled in the art. General texts that described conventional molecular biology, microbiology, and recombinant

DNA techniques within the skill of the art, included, for example: Sambrook et al, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989); Glover ed., *DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach*, Volumes I and II, MRL Press, Ltd., Oxford, U. K. (1985); and Ausubel, F., Brent, R., Kingston, R. E., Moore, D. D., Seidman, J. G., Smith, J. A.,

Kingston, R. E., Moore, D. D., Seidman, J. G., Smith, J. A., Struhl, K. Current Protocols in Molecular Biology. Greene Publishing Associates/Wiley Intersciences, New York (2002).

Determining Induced Exon Skipping in Human Muscle Cells

Attempts by the inventors to develop a rational approach in antisense molecules design were not completely successful as there did not appear to be a consistent trend that could be applied to all exons. As such, the identification of the most effective and therefore most therapeutic antisense molecules compounds has been the result of empirical studies.

These empirical studies involved the use of computer programs to identify motifs potentially involved in the splicing process. Other computer programs were also used to identify regions of the pre-mRNA which may not have had extensive secondary structure and therefore potential sites for annealing of antisense molecules. Neither of these approaches proved completely reliable in designing antisense oligonucleotides for reliable and efficient induction of exon skipping.

Annealing sites on the human dystrophin pre-mRNA were selected for examination, initially based upon known or predicted motifs or regions involved in splicing. 20Me antisense oligonucleotides were designed to be complementary to the target sequences under investigation and were synthesised on an Expedite 8909 Nucleic Acid Synthesiser. Upon completion of synthesis, the oligonucleotides were cleaved from the support column and de-protected in ammonium hydroxide before being desalted. The quality of the oligonucleotide synthesis was monitored by the intensity of the trityl signals upon each deprotection step during the synthesis as detected in the synthesis log. The concentration of the antisense oligonucleotide was estimated by measuring the absorbance of a diluted aliquot at 260 nm.

Specified amounts of the antisense molecules were then tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in an in vitro assay, as described below.

Briefly, normal primary myoblast cultures were prepared from human muscle biopsies obtained after informed consent. The cells were propagated and allowed to differentiate into myotubes using standard culturing techniques. The cells were then transfected with the antisense oligonucleotides by delivery of the oligonucleotides to the dells as cationic lipoplexes, mixtures of antisense molecules or cationic liposome preparations.

The cells were then allowed to grow for another 24 hours, after which total RNA was extracted and molecular analysis commenced. Reverse transcriptase amplification (RT-PCR) was undertaken to study the targeted regions of the dystrophin pre-mRNA or induced exonic re-arrangements.

For example, in the testing of an antisense molecule for inducing exon 19 skipping the RT-PCR test scanned several exons to detect involvement of any adjacent exons. For example, when inducing skipping of exon 19, RT-PCR was carried out with primers that amplified across exons 17 and 21. Amplifications of even larger products in this area (i.e. exons 13-26) were also carried out to ensure that there was

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minimal amplification bias for the shorter induced skipped transcript. Shorter or exon skipped products tend to be amplified more efficiently and may bias the estimated of the normal and induced transcript.

The sizes of the amplification reaction products were estimated on an agarose gel and compared against appropriate size standards. The final confirmation of identity of these products was carried out by direct DNA sequencing to establish that the correct or expected exon junctions have been maintained.

Once efficient exon skipping had been induced with one antisense molecule, subsequent overlapping antisense molecules may be synthesized and then evaluated in the assay as described above. Our definition of an efficient antisense molecule is one that induces strong and sustained exon skipping at transfection concentrations in the order of 300 15 nM or less.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 8

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above. 34

efficient antisense molecules only induced exon skipping at concentrations of 300 nM and above. Therefore, we have shown that targeting of the antisense molecules to motifs involved in the splicing process plays a crucial role in the overall efficacy of that compound.

Efficacy refers to the ability to induce consistent skipping of a target exon. However, sometimes skipping of the target exons is consistently associated with a flanking exon. That is, we have found that the splicing of some exons is tightly linked. For example, in targeting exon 23 in the mouse model of muscular dystrophy with antisense molecules directed at the donor site of that exon, dystrophin transcripts missing exons 22 and 23 are frequently detected. As another example, when using an antisense molecule directed to exon 8 of the human dystrophin gene, all induced transcripts are missing both exons 8 and 9. Dystrophin transcripts missing 20 only exon 8 are not observed.

Table 2 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 8 (and 9) skipping.

TABLE 2

SEQ	Antisense Oligonucleotide IDname	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
1	H8A(-06+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA	Very strong to 20 nM
2	H8A (-03+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG	Very strong skipping to 40 nM
3	H8A (-07+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA G	Strong skipping to 40 nM
4	H8A(-06+14)	5'-GGU GGU AUC AAC AUC UGU AA	Skipping to 300 nM
5	H8A(-10+10)	5'-GUA UCA ACA UCU GUA AGC AC	Patchy/weak skipping to 100 nm

FIG. 3 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. H8A(-06+18) [SEQ ID NO:1], which anneals to the last 6 bases of intron 7 and the first 18 bases of exon 8, induces substantial exon 8 and 9 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. The shorter antisense molecule, H8A(-06+14) [SEQ ID NO: 4] was only able to induce exon 8 and 9 skipping at 300 nM, a concentration some 15 fold higher than H8A(-06+18), which is the preferred antisense molecule.

This data shows that some particular antisense molecules induce efficient exon skipping while another antisense molecule, which targets a near-by or overlapping region, can be much less efficient. Titration studies show one compound is able to induce targeted exon skipping at 20 nM while the less

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 7

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 4 shows the preferred antisense molecule, H7A(+ 45+67) [SEQ ID NO: 6], and another antisense molecule, H7A(+2+26) [SEQ ID NO: 7], inducing exon 7 skipping. Nested amplification products span exons 3 to 9. Additional products above the induced transcript missing exon 7 arise from amplification from carry-over outer primers from the RT-PCR as well as heteroduplex formation.

Table 3 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 7 skipping.

TABLE 3

Antisense SEQOligonucleotide ID name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
6 H7A(+45+67)	5'-UGC AUG UUC CAG UCG UUG UGU	Strong skipping

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TABLE 3-continued

Antisense SEQOligonucleotide ID name	Sequence						Ability to ind	luce
7 H7A(+02+26)	5'-CAC U.	AU UCC	AGU	CAA	AUA	GGU	Weak skipping 100 nM	at
8 H7D(+15-10)	5'-AUU U. AGU A	AC CAA	ccu	UCA	GGA	UCG	Weak skipping 300 nM	to
9 H7A(-18+03)	5'-GGC C	UA AAA	CAC	AUA	CAC	AUA	Weak skipping	to

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 6

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 6 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 5 shows an example of two non-preferred antisense molecules inducing very low levels of exon 6 skipping in cultured human cells. Targeting this exon for specific removal was first undertaken during a study of the canine model using the oligonucleotides as listed in Table 4, below.

Some of the human specific oligonucleotides were also evaluated, as shown in FIG. 5. In this example, both antisense molecules target the donor splice site and only induced low levels of exon 6 skipping. Both H6D(+4-21) [SEQ ID NO: 17] and H6D(+18-4) [SEQ ID NO: 18] would be regarded as non-preferred antisense molecules.

One antisense oligonucleotide that induced very efficient exon 6 skipping in the canine model, C6A(+69+91) [SEQ ID NO: 14], would anneal perfectly to the corresponding region in human dystrophin exon 6. This compound was evaluated, found to be highly efficient at inducing skipping of that target exon, as shown in FIG. 6 and is regarded as the preferred compound for induced exon 6 skipping. Table 4 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 6 skipping.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 4

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 4 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 20 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

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FIG. 7 shows an example of a preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 skipping in cultured human cells. In this example, one preferred antisense compound, H4A(+13+32) [SEQ ID NO:19], which targeted a presumed exonic splicing enhancer induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM while other non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides failed to induce even low levels of exon 4 skipping. Another preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 was H4A(+111+40) [SEQ ID NO:22], which induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM.

Table 5 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for inducing exon 4 skipping.

TARLE A

	Antisense Oligo	Ability to induce
SEQ .	ID name	Sequence skipping
10	C6A(-10+10)	5' CAU UUU UGA CCU ACA UGU No skipping GG
11	C6A(-14+06)	5' UUU GAC CUA CAU GUG GAA No skipping AG
12	C6A(-14+12)	5' UAC AUU UUU GAC CUA CAU No ekipping GUG GAA AG
13	C6A(-13+09)	5' AUU UUU GAC CUA CAU GGG No skipping AAA G
14	CH6A(+69+91)	5' UAC GAG UUG AUU GUC GGA Strong skipping to 20 nM
15	C6D(+12-13)	5' GUG GUC UCC UUA CCU AUG Weak skipping at 300 nM. ACU GUG G
16	C6D(+06+11)	5, GGO COC COO ACC UAU GA No skipping
17	H6D(+04-21)	ACC UAU CUC AGU AAU CUU CUU Weak skipping to 50 nM
18	H6D(+18-04)	5' UCU UAC CUA UGA CUA UGG Very weak skipping to AUG AGA 300 nM

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TABLE 5

SEQAntisense ID Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
19 H4A(+13+32)	5' GCA UGA ACU CUU GUG GAU CC	Skipping to
22 H4A(+11+40)		Skipping to
20 H4D(+04-16)	5' CCA GGG UAC UAC UUA CAU UA	No skipping
21 H4D (-24-44)	5' AUC GUG UGU CAC AGC AUC CAG	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 3

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 3 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H3A(+30+60) [SEQ ID NO:23] induced substantial exon 3 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM to 600 nM. The antisense molecule, H3A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO: 24] induced exon skipping at 300 nM.

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Table 6 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 3 skipping.

TABLE 6

SEQ 1	Antisense IDOligonucleotide name	Seque	ence								Ability to induce skipping
23	H3A(+30+60)	UAG C			ccu	ccc	AUC	CUG	UAG	١	Moderate skipping to 20 to 600 nM
24	H3A(+35+65)	AGG U			AGG	CGC	CUC	CCA	ucc		Working to 300 nM
25	H3A(+30+54)	GCG C	cu	ccc	AUC	CUG	UAG	GUC	ACU	G	Moderate 100-600 nM
26	H3D(+46-21)	CUU C	GA (GGA	GGU	CUA	GGA	GGC	GCC		No skipping
27	H3A(+30+50)	cuc c	CA I	ucc	UGU	AGG	UCA	CUG			Moderate 20-600 nM
28	H3D(+19-03)	UAC C	AG I	טטט	UUG	ccc	UGU	CAG	G		No skipping
29	H3A (-06+20)	UCA A	UA (UGC	UGC	UUC	CCA /	AAC U	JGA		No skipping
30	H3A(+37+61)	CUA G	GA (GGC	GCC	UCC	CAU	CCU	GUA	G	No skipping

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 5

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 5 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H5A(+20+50) [SEQ ID NO:31] induces substantial exon 5 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 7 below shows other antisense molecules total the majority of these antisense molecules were not as effective at exon skipping as H5A(+20+50). However, H5A(+15+45) [SEQ ID NO: 40] was able to induce exon 5 skipping at 300 nM.

Table 7 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that father exon 5 skipping.

that induce exon 5 skipping.

TABLE 7

SEQ I	Antisense Oligonucleotide D name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
31	H5A (+20+50)	UUA UGA UUU CCA UCU AC AUG UCA GUA CUU C	G Working to 100 nM

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TABLE 7-continued

SEQ 1	Antisense Oligonucleotide D name	Seq	uenc	in	Ability to induce skipping				
32	H5D (+25-05)	CUU	ACC	UGC	CAG	UGG A	AGG	No	skipping
33	H5D(+10-15)	CAU	CAG	GAU G	טכט	UAC	CUG	-	consistent 300 nM
3.4	H5A(+10+34)	CGA UAU	UGU	CAG	UAC	uuc	CAA	Ve	ry weak
35	H5D (-04-21)	ACC	AUU	CAU	CAG	GAU	UCU	No	skipping
3.6	H5D (+16-02)	ACC	UGC	CAG	UGG	AGG	AUU	No	skipping
37	H5A (-07+20)	CCA	AUA UGU	UUC	ACU	AAA	UCA	No	skipping
38	H5D(+18-12)	CAG GUG	GAU GAG	UCU	UAC	CUG	CCA	No	skipping
39	H5A(+05+35)	ACG AUA	AUG	UCA ACU	GUA AAA	CUU	CCA	No	skipping
40	H5A(+15+45)		UCC				GUC		king to

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 10

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 10 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H10A(-05+16) [SEQ ID NO:41] induced substantial exon 10 skipping when delivered into cells. Table 8 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable. Table 8 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 10 skipping.

TABLE 8

SEQAntisense ID Oligonucleotide name	Seg	uenc	e		Ability to induce skipping				
41 H10A(-05+16)	CAG	GAG	CUU	CCA	AAU	GCU	GCA	Not	tested
42 H10A(-05+24)	and the same of	GUC		AGG	AGC	UUC	CAA	Not	tested
43 H10A(+98+119)	UCC	UCA	GCA	GAA	AGA	AGC	CAC	3 Not	tested
44 H10A(+130+149)	UUA	GAA	AUC	UCU	CCU	UGU	GC	No	skipping
45 H10A(-33-14)	UAA	AUU	GGG	UGU	UAC	ACA	AU	No	skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 11

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 11 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 8B shows an example of H11A(+75+97) [SEQ ID NO:49] antisense molecule inducing exon 11 skipping in cultured human cells. H11A(+75+97) induced substantial exon 11 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 9 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was observed at 100 nM.

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TABLE 9

SEQAntisense ID Oligonucleotide name	Sequ	ence	e						Ability to induce skipping			
46 H11D(+26+49)	CCC	UGA	GGC	AUU	ccc	AUC	UUG	ī	Skipping	_	-	_
47 H11D(+11-09)	AGG .	ACU	UAC	UUG	cuu	UGU	טט		Skipping	at	100	nM
48 H11A(+118+140)	CUU (GAA	uuu	AGG	AGA	uuc	AUC	UG	Skipping	at	100	nM
49 H11A(+75+97)	CAU	cuu	CUG	AUA	AUU	UUC	CUG	שט	Skipping			
46 H11D(+26+49)	CCC I	DGA	GGC	AUU	ccc	AUC	UUG		Skipping 5 nM			

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 12

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 12 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H12A(+52+75) [SEQ ID NO:50] induced substantial exon 12 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM, as shown in FIG. 8A. Table 10 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable.

TABLE 10

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	ė		Ability to induce skipping
50	H12A(+52+75)	UCU	UCU	GUU CAG	12.55	Skipping at 5 nM
51	H12A(-10+10)		AUG	Total Series	ACU	Skipping at 100 nM
52	H12A(+11+30)		UGG AAA		UCC	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 13

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 13 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

HI3A(+77+100) [SEQ ID NO:53] induced substantial exon 13 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 11 below includes two other antisense

molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping.

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TABLE 11

SEQ	ŢĽ	Antisense Oligonucleotide Oname	Seq	uenc	e		in	ility to duce ipping
5	3	H13A(+77+100)	CAG	CAG	uug	CGU	sk.	ipping at
			GAU	CUC	CAC	UAG	5 1	nM
54	1	H13A(+55+75)	UUC	AUC	AAC	UAC	No	skipping
			CAC	CAC	CAU			
55	;	H13D(+06-19)	CUA	AGC	AAA	AUA	No	skipping
				UGA				
			G					

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 14

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 14 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H14A(+37+64) [SEQ ID NO:56] induced weak exon 14 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 12 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested.

TABLE 12

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e				Ability to induce skipping
56	H14A(+37+64)	CUU		AAA		ccc	AGC	Skipping at
		GGU	Luo	COG	U			100 nM
57	H14A(+14+35)	CAU	CUA	CAG	AUG	טטט	GCC	No skipping
		CAU	C					
58	H14A(+51+73)	GAA	GGA	UGU	CUU	GUA	AAA	No skipping
		GAA	CC					

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TABLE 12-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Ability to induce skipping	
59	H14D(-02+18)	ACC UGU UCU UCA GUA AG	
60	H14D(+14-10)	CAU GAC ACA CCU GUU CU CAG UAA	U No skipping
61	H14A(+61 +80)	CAU UUG AGA AGG AUG UC	U No skipping
62	H14A(~12+12)	AUC UCC CAA UAC CUG GAG	3 No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 15

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 15 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H15A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:63] and H15A(+48+71) [SEQ ID NO:64] induced substantial exon 15 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 Nm, as shown in FIG. 9A. Table 13 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 Nm. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested.

TABLE 13

SEQ I	Antisense Oligonucleotide Dname	Seq	uenc	e							in	ility t duce ipping	0
63	H15A(-12+19)	GCC	AUG U	CAC	UAA	AAA	GGC	ACU	GCA	AGA	sk 5	ipping	at
64	H15A(+48+71)	ucu	UUA	AAG	CCA	GUU	GUG	UGA	AUC		Sk 5	ipping Nm	at
65	H15A(+08+28)	טטט	CUG	AAA	GCC	AUG	CAC	UAA			No	skippi	ng
63	H15A(-12+19)	GCC		CAC	UAA	AAA	GGC	ACU	GCA	AGA	No	skippi	ng
66	H15D(+17-08)	GUA	CAU	ACG	GCC	AGU	טטט	UGA	AGA	C	No	skippi	ng

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 16

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 16 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H16A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:67] and H16A(-06+25) [SEQ ID NO:68] induced substantial exon 16 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM, as shown in FIG. 9B. Table 14 below includes other antisense molecules tested. H16A(-06+19) [SEQ ID NO:69] and H16A(+87+109) [SEQ ID NO:70] were tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These two antisense molecules were able to induce exon skipping at 25 nM and 100 nM, respectively. Additional antisense molecules were tested at 100, 200 and 300 nM and did not result in any exon skipping.

TABLE 14

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
67	H16A(-12+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU	Skipping at
		AAA ACA A	5 nM

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TABLE 14-continued

SEQ	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e							in	ility t duce ipping	
68	H16A(-06+25)	CCU	GUU	CUA A	GAU	CCG	cuu	UUA	AAA		sk	ipping	-
69	H16A(-06+19)	CUA	GAU	ccc	cuu	UUA	AAA	ccu	GUU	A		ipping nM	at
70	H16A(+87+109)	CCG	UCU	ucu	GGG	UCA	CUG	ACU	UA			ipping	at
71	H16A(-07+19)	CUA	GAU	CCG	cuu	UUA	AAA	ccu	GUU	AA	No	skippi	ng
72	H16A(-07+13)						GUU					skippi	
73	H16A(+12+37)	UGG	AUU	GCU	טטט	υςυ	טטט	CUA	GAU	cc	No	skippi	ng
74	H16A(+92+116)						UGG					skippi	
75.	H16A(+45+67)	G At	טכ טנ	JG UT	JU G	AG U	SA AU	JA C	AG U			skippi	
76	H16A(+105+126)	GUU	AUC	CAG	CCA	UGC	UUC	CGU	C			skippi	
7.7	H16D(+05-20)	UGA	UAA	UUG	GUA	UCA	CUA	ACC	UGU	G		skippi	
78	H16D(+12-11)	GUA	UCA	CUA	ACC	UGU	GCU	GUA	c			skippí	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 19

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 19 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:79] induced substantial exon 19 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. This antisense molecule also showed very strong exon skipping at concentrations of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM.

FIG. 10 illustrates exon 19 and 20 skipping using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides, as tested using gel electrophoresis. It is interesting to note that it was not easy to induce exon 20 skipping using single antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] or H20A(+149+170) [SEQ ID NO:82], as illustrated in sections 2 and 3 of the gel shown in FIG. 10. Whereas, a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides was more efficient as can be seen in section 4 of FIG. 10 using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170). When the cocktail was used to target exon 19, skipping was even stronger (see section 5, FIG. 10).

FIG. 11 illustrates gel electrophoresis results of exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" The "weasels" were effec-

tive in skipping exons 19 and 20 at concentrations of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. A further "weasel" sequence is shown in the last row of Table 3C. This compound should give good results.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 20

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 20 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

None of the antisense oligonucleotides tested induced exon 20 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10, 25, 50, 300 or 600 nM (see Table 15). Antisense molecules H20A(-11+17) [SEQ ID NO:86] and H20D(+ 08-20) [SEQ ID NO:87] are yet to be tested.

However, a combination or "cocktail" of H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO: 81] and H20(+149+170) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 1:1, exhibited very strong exon skipping at a concentration of 100 nM and 600 nM. Further, a combination of antisense molecules H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:79], H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] and H20A(+149+170) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 2:1:1, induced very strong exon skipping at a concentration ranging from 10 nM to 600 nM.

TABLE 15

	111222 13											
SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping									
81	H20A(+44+71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C	No skipping									
82	H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C	No skipping									
83	H20A(+185+203)	UGA UGG GGU GGU GGG UUG G	No skipping									
84	H20A (-08+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA G	No skipping									

TABLE 15-continued

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SEQ	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e						Ability to induce skipping
85	H20A(+30+53)	CCG	GCU	GUU	CAG	UUG	uuc	UGA	GGC	No skipping
86	H20A(-11+17)	AUC GAA	UGC A	AUU	AAC	ACC	CUC	UAG	AAA	Not tested yet
87	H20D(+08-20)	GAA CAA		GAA	GAG	AUU	cuu	ACC	UUA	Not tested yet
81 & 82	H20A(+44+71) & H20A(+147+168)	GUU	C					ccg		Very strong
		CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	UCU	GCU	c	skipping
	H19A(+35+65); H20A(+44+71);	UGC	AGU	U7				GCA		Very strong
	H20A(+147+168)	GUU	C;					CCG		avrbbing
		CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	UCU	GCU	C	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 21

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 21 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H21A(+85+108) [SEQ ID NO:92] and H21A(+85+106) [SEQ ID NO:91] induced exon 21 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 16 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping

TABLE 16

3.7	Antisense Oligonucleotide name									Ability to induce skipping			
90	H21A(-06+16)	GCC	GGU	UGA	cuu	CAU	CCU	GUG	c	Skips	at	600	nM
91	H21A(+85+106)	cug	CAU	CCA	GGA	ACA	UGG	GUC	c	Skips	at	50	nM
92	H21A(+85+108)	GUC UC	DGC	AUC	CAG	GAA	CAU	GGG		Skips	at	50	nM
93	H21A(+08+31)	GUU UGA	GAA	GAU	cug	AUA.	GCC	GGU	l	Skips	fai	nt1	y to
94	H21D(+18-07)	UAC	UUA	CUG	ucu	GUA	GCU	cuu		No ski	ppi	ng	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 22

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 22 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 12 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 22 acceptor splice site. H22A(+

125+106) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ IDNO: 98] induce strong exon 22 skipping from 50 nM to 600 nM concentration.

H22A(+125+146) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ ID NO:98] induced exon 22 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 17 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

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TABLE 17

SEQ I	Antisense oligonucleotide D name	Seq	uenc	e					Ability to induce
95	95 H22A(+22+45)		UCA	UGG	ncn	CCU	GAU	AGC	No skipping
96	H22A(+125+146)	CUG	CAA	UUC	ccc	GAG	מכט	CUG	C Skipping to 50 nM
97	H22A(+47+69)	ACU UG	GCU	GGA	ccc	AUG	UCC	UGA	Skipping to 300 nM
98	H22A(+80+101)	CUA	AGU	UGA	GGU	AUG	GAG	AGU	Skipping to 50 nM
99	H22D(+13-11)	UAU	UCA	CAG	ACC	UGC	AAU	UCC	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 23

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 23 were pre- 20 skipping, pared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Table 18 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping or are yet to be tested.

TABLE 18

SEQ I	Antisense oligonucleotide D name	Seq	uenc	e	Ability to induce skipping		
100	H23A(+34+59)		GUG			No	skipping
101	H23A(+18+39)		GCC		1000	No	Skipping
102	H23A(+72+90)		AGA CUU		CGC	No	Skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 24

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 19 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 24 skipping.

TABLE 19

	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e		Abili induc skipp	e	5
103	H24A(+48+70)	GGG	CAG		AUU GA	Needs	testing	
104	H24A(-02+22)	UCU	UCA	000		Needs	testing	60

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 25

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 25 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 20 below shows the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 25 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 25

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TABLE 20

SEQ	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e	Ability to induce skipping		
105	H25A(+9+36)	GUC	GGC UGA CUG	17.000	AUU	Needs	testing
106	H25A(+131+156)		UUG AUC		CAU	Needs	testing
107	H25D(+16-08)	GUC	UAU	ACC AUG		Needs	testing

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 26

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 were pre-40 pared using similar methods as described above. Table 21 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 26 skipping.

TABLE 21

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	9	Ability to induce skipping		
108	H26A(+132+156)		UUU		UAA AGU	Needs	testing
109	H26A(-07+19)	CCU CAU AC	CCU AGA		UGG UCC	Needs	testing
110	H26A(+68+92)	UGU UCG G		AUC	CAU	Faint skipp: at 600	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 27

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 22 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 27 skipping.

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TABLE 22

SEQ I	Antisense oligonucleotide D name	Seq	ienc	e					Ability to induce
111	H27A(+82+106)	UUA GUG	AGG G	CCU	cuu	GUG	CUA	CAG	Needs testing
112	H27A(-4+19)	GGG GA	ccu	CUU	CUU	UAG	cuc	ucu	Faint skipping at
113	H27D(+19-03)	GAC	UUC	CAA	AGU	con	GCA	טטט	C v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 28

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 23 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 28 skipping.

TABLE 23

Antisense oligonucleotide SEQ ID name		Seq	uenc	e		Ability to induce skipping			
114	H28A(-05+19)	GCC AAG	AAC	AUG	ccc	AAA	cuu	CCU	v, strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM
115	H28A(+99+124)	CAG		טטט	ccu	CAG	CUC	CGC	Needs testing
116	H28D(+16-05)	CUU	ACA	UCU	AGC	ACC	UCA	GAG	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 29

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 29 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 24 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at 40 exon 29 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 29 skipping.

TABLE 24

SEQ I	Seq	uenc	e	Ability to induce skipping							
117	H29A(+57+81)	UCC		AUC	UGU	UAG	GGU	CUG		Ne	eds testing
118	H29A(+18+42)	AUU	UGG C	GUU	AUC	CUC	UGA	AUG		v. at	strong skipping 600 and 300 nM
119	H29D(+17-05)	CAU	ACC	UCU	UCA	UGU	AGU	UCC	C	v. at	strong skipping 600 and 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 30

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 30 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 25 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 30 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 30 skipping.

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TABLE 25

Antisense oligonucleotide SEQ ID name			uenc	9			Ability to induce				
120	H30A	(+122+147)	CAU	UUG	AGC UG	UGC	GUC	CAC			
121	H30A	(+25+50)	COC	UGG UGU	GCA UC	GAC	UGG	AUG	Very strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM.		
122	H30D	(+19-04)	UUG GCA	nn ccn	GGG	cuu	ccu	GAG	Very strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM.		

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 31

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 31 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 13 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense 20 molecules directed at exon 31 acceptor splice site and a

"cocktail" of exon 31 antisense oligonucleotides at varying concentrations. H31D(+03-22) [SEQ ID NO:124] substantially induced exon 31 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 26 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

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TABLE 26

Antisense oligonucleotide SEQ ID name				ienc	e		Ability to induce skipping				
123	H31D	(+06-18)	UUC	UGA	AAU	AAC	AUA	UAC	CUG	Skipping t	o 300 nM
124	H31D	(+03-22)	UAG	g G	CUG	AAA	UAA	CAU	AUA	Skipping t	o 20 nM
125	H31A	(+05+25)	GAC	UUG	UCA	AAU	CAG	AUU	GGA	No skippir	ig
126	H31D	(+04-20)	GUU UGU	ucu	GAA	AUA	ACA	UAU	ACC	Skipping t	o 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 32

- Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 32 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.
- H32D(+04-16) [SEQ ID NO:127] and H32A(+49+73)
 [SEQ ID NO:130] induced exon 32 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM. Table 27 below also shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules did not show an ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 27

Anti: SEQoligo ID name	Seq	uenc	е		Ability to induce skipping								
127H32D	(+04-16)	CAC	CAG	AAA	UAC	AUA	CCA	CA	Ski	pping	to	300	nM
128H32A	(+151+170)	CAA	UGA	טטט	AGC	UGU	GAC	UG	No	skipp	ing		
129H32A	(+10+32)	CGA UG	AAC	uuc	AUG	GAG	ACA	ucu	No	skipp	ing		
130H32A	(+49+73)	CUU	GUA C	GAC	GCU	GCU	CAA	AAU	Ski	pping	to	300	nM

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 33

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 33 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 5 above.

FIG. 14 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 33 acceptor splice site. H33A(+64+88) [SEQ ID NO:134] substantially induced exon 33 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 28 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 28

SEQ I		sense onucleotide	Seq	uenc	e							Ability skipping	to .	indu	ice
131	H33D	(+09-11)	CAU	GCA	CAC	ACC	טטט	GCU	cc			No skipp	ing		
132	нзза	(+53+76)	nca	GUA	CAA	ncn	GAC	GUC	CAG	UCU		Skipping	to	200	nl
133	нзза	(+30+56)	GUG GAC	טטט	AUC	ACC	AUU	ucc	ACU	UCA		Skipping	to	200	ni
134	нзза	(+64+88)	GCG	ucu	GCU	טטט	ucu	GUA	CAA	ucu	G	Skipping	to	10	nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 34

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 34 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Table 29 below includes antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 29

SEQ I	12002	sense onucleotide		uenc	e			Ability to induce skipping		
135	H34A	(+83+104)	UCC		ucu	GUA	GCU	GGC	No skipping	
136	нз4А	(+143+165)	CCA	15.00	AAC	UUC	AGA	AUC	No skipping	
137	H34A	(-20+10)				CCU		AAG	Not tested	
138	H34A	(+46+70)		UCA		CCU	UUC	GCA	Skipping to 300 nM	
139	Н34А	(+95+120)		UCU		UGU	CAA	UUC	Skipping to 300 nM	
140	H34D	(+10-20)	UUC ACC	AGU UUU	GAU CCC	AUA	GGU	מטט	Not tested	
141	H34A	(+72+96)	CUG			CCA	GCC	AUU	No skipping	

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 35

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 35 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 15 shows differing efficiencies of antisense molecules directed at exon 35 acceptor splice site. H35A(+24+43) [SEQ ID NO:144] substantially induced exon 35 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 30 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 30

SEQ I		sense onucleotide	Seq	uenc	e					Ability to induce skipping
142	H35A	(+141+161)	UCU	ucu	GCU	CGG	GAG	GUG	ACA	Skipping to 20 nM
143	H35A	(+116+135)								No skipping
144	H35A.	(+24+43)				GCA				No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 36

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 36 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Antisense molecule H36A(+26+50) [SEQ ID NO:145] 30 induced exon 36 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM, as shown in FIG. 16.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 37

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 37 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 17 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 37 acceptor splice site. H37A(+82+105) [SEQ ID NO:148] and H37A(+134+157) [SEQ ID NO:149] substantially induced exon 37 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 31 below shows the antisense molecules tested.

TABLE 31

SEQ II	The state of the s	sense onucleotide	Seq	uenc	e					- 1	Ability takipping	o inc	luce
147	H37A	(+26+50)	CGU	GUA	GAG	UCC	ACC	טטט	GGG	CGU A	No skippi	ing	
148	H37A	(+82+105)	UAC	UAA	טטט	ccu	GCA	GUG	GUC	ACC	Skipping	to 10	Mn
149	H3.7A	(+134+157)	uuc	UGU	GUG	AAA	UGG	CUG	CAA	AUC	Skipping	to 10	nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 38

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 38 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in buman muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 18 illustrates antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) [SEQ ID NO:152], directed at exon 38 acceptor splice site. H38A(+88+112) substantially induced exon 38 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 32 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon skipping.

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TARLE 33

Antisense SEQoligonucleotide ID name	Seq	uenc	ė		Ability to induce skipping			
150H38A (-01+19)	CCU	UCA	AAG	GAA	UGG	AGG	cc	No skipping
151H38A (+59+83)	UGC GGU	UGA U	AUU	UCA	GCC	UCC	AGU	The second secon
152H38A (+88+112)	UGA UCA	AGU C	CUU	CCU	cuu	UCA	GAU	Skipping to 10 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 39

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 39 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H39A(+62+85) [SEQ ID NO:153] induced exon 39 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 33 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 33

SEQ I		sense onucleotide	Seq	uenc	e					Ability to induce skipping
153	нзэа	(+62+85)	CUG		uuc	ucu	CAU	CUG	UGA	Skipping to 100 nM
154	H39A	(+39+58)	GUU	GUA	AGU	UGU	cuc	CUC	uu	No skipping
155	H39A	(+102+121)	UUG	ucu	GUA	ACA	GCU	GCU	GU	No skipping
156	H39D	(+10-10)	GCU	CUA	AUA	CCU	UGA	GAG	CA	Skipping to 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 40

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 40 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 19 illustrates antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) 45 [SFQ ID NO:157] directed at exon 40 acceptor splice site. 1140A(-05+17) and H40A(+129+153) [SEQ ID NO:158] both substantially induced exon 40 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 42

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 42 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 20 illustrates antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) [SEQ ID NO:159], directed at exon 42 acceptor splice site. H42A(-4+23) and H42D(+19-02) [SEQ ID NO:161] both induced exon 42 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 34 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 42 skipping.

TABLE 34

SEQ I	200	sense onucleotide	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
159	H42A	(-4+23)	AUC GUU UCU UCA CGG ACA GUG UGG UGC	Skipping to 5 nM
160	H42A	(+86+109)	GGG CUU GUG AGA CAU GAG UGA	Skipping to 100 nM
161	H42D	(+19-02)	A CCU UCA GAG GAC UCC UCU UGC	Skipping to 5 nM

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 43

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 43 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H43A(+101+120) [SEQ ID NO:163] induced exon 43 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 25 nM. Table 35 below includes the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 43 skipping.

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 47
Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 47 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

above

H47A(+76+100) [SEQ ID NO:170] and H47A(-09+12) [SEQ ID NO:172] both induced exon 47 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 200 nM. H47D(+25-02) [SEQ ID NO: 171] is yet to be prepared and tested.

TABLE 35

SEQ I		sense onucleotide	Sequence							Ability to induce skipping
162	H43D	(+10-15)	UAU GGU	GUG C	UUA	ccu	ACC	cuu	GUC	Skipping to 100 nM
163	H43A	(+101+120)	GGA	GAG	AGC	UUC	CUG	UAG	CU	Skipping to 25 nM
164	H43A	(+78+100)	UCA	ccc	טטט	CCA	CAG	GCG	UUG CA	Skipping to 200 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 44

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 44 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 44 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 165 to 167 in Table 1A.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 45

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 45 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 45 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 207 to 211 in Table 1A.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 46

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 46 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 21 illustrates the efficiency of one antisense molecule directed at exon 46 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H46A(+86+115) [SEQ ID NO:203] showed very strong ability to induce exon 46 skipping. Table 36 below includes antisense molecules tested. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 46 skipping.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 50

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 50 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Antisense oligonucleotide molecule H50A(+02+30) [SEQ ID NO: 173] was a strong inducer of exon skipping. Further, H50A(+07+33) [SEQ ID NO:174] and H50D(+07-18) [SEQ ID NO:175] both induced exon 50 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 51

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 51 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisenses molecules directed at exon 51 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+66+90) [SEQ ID NO:180] showed the stronger ability to induce exon 51 skipping. Table 37 below includes antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 51 skipping. The strongest inducers of exon skipping were antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+61+90) [SEQ ID NO: 179] and H51A(+66+95) [SEQ ID NO: 181].

TABLE 36

SEQ I		sense onucleotide	Seq	uenc	e						Ability to induce skipping		
168	H46D	(+16-04)	UUA	CCU	UGA	CUU	GCU	CAA	GC		No s	kipping	
169	H46A	(+90+109)	ucc	AGG	טטכ	AAG	UGG	GAU	AC		No s	tipping	
203	H46A	(+86+115)		UUU AGC	ncc	AGG	uuc	AAG	UGG	GAU		skipping 00 nM	
204	H46A	(+107+137)	CAA	GCU	C	CUU	UUA	GUU	GCU	GCU		skipping 00 nM	
205	H46A	(-10+20)	UAU AGA		טטט	GUU	COD	CUA	GCC	UGG	Weak	skipping	
206	H46A	(+50+77)	CUG		ccu	CCA	ACC	AUA	AAA	CAA	Weak	skipping	

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TABLE 37

Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to induce SEO ID name Sequence skipping H51A (-01+25) ACC AGA GUA ACA GUC Faint skipping UGA GUA GGA GC H51D (+16-07) CUC AUA CCU UCU GCU Skipping at 300 nM UGA UGA UC H51A (+111+134) UUC UGU CCA AGC CCG Needs re-testing GUU GAA AUC 179 H51A (+61+90) ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG Very strong GCA UUU CUA GUU UGG skipping 180 H51A (+66+90) ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG skipping GCA UUU CUA G H51A (+66+95) CUC CAA CAU CAA GGA Very strong AGA UGG CAU UUC UAG skipping 182 H51D (+08-17) AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU No skipping ACC UUC UGC U 183 H51A/D (+08-17) AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU No skipping ACC UUC UGC UAG GAG & (-15+2) CUA AAA H51A (+175+195) CAC CCA CCA UCA GCC No skipping DCU GUG H51A (+199+220) AUC AUC UCG UUG AUA No skipping UCC UCA A

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 52

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 52 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 also shows differing efficiencies of four antisense molecules directed at exon 52 acceptor splice site. The most effective antisense oligonucleotide for inducing exon 52 skipping was H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188).

Table 38 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These 45 antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 50 skipping. Antisense molecules H52A(+12+41) [SEQ ID NO:187] and H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188] showed the strongest exon 50 skipping at a concentration of 50 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 53

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 53 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 also shows antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] directed at exon 53 acceptor splice site.

This antisense oligonucleotide was able to induce exon 53 skipping at 5, 100, 300 and 600 nM. A "cocktail" of three exon 53 antisense oligonucleotides: H53A(+23+47) [SEQ ID NO:195], H53A(+150+176) [SEQ ID NO:196] and H53D(+14-07) [SEQ ID NO:194], was also tested, as shown in FIG. 20 and exhibited an ability to induce exon skipping.

Table 39 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 53 skipping. Antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] induced the strongest exon 53 skipping.

TABLE 38

Antis SEQoligo ID name	nucleotide	Seq	uenc	e						Ability to induce skipping		
186H52A	(-07+14)	ucc	UGC	AUU	GUU	GCC	UGU	AAG		No skipping		
187H52A	(+12+41)		AAC	UGG	GGA	CGC	CUC	UGU	UCC	Very strong skipping		
188H52A	(+17+37)	ACU	GGG	GAC	GCC	UCU	GUU	CCA		Skipping to 50 nM		
189H52A	(+93+112)	CCG	UAA	UGA	UUG	uuc	UAG	CC		No skipping		
190H52D	(+05-15)	UGU	UAA	AAA	ACU	UAC	UUC	GA		No skipping		

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TABLE 39

SEQ :		isense gonucleotide e		Jueno	e				Ability to induce
191	H53A	4 (+45+69)	CAU	UCA	ACU G	GUU	GCC	UCC	
192	H53A	(+39+62)	CUG	GUG	ccu	CCG	GUU	CUG	Faint skipping at
193	H53A	(+39+69)	CAU	UCA	ACU	GUU	GCC G	UCC	Strong skipping
194	H53D	(+14-07)	UAC	UAA	ccu	UGG	טטט	CUG	Very faint skipping to 50 nM
195	H53A	(+23+47)	CUG	AAG	GUG	uuc c	UUG		Very faint skipping to 50 nM
196	H53A	(+150+176)	UGU	AUA UGA	GGG	ACC	CUC	cuu	
197	H53D	(+20-05)	CUA AUU	ACC	UUG	GUU	טכט	GUG	
198	H53D	(+09-18)	GGU AAC	AUC	UUU	GAU	ACU		Paint at 600 nM
199	H53A	(-12+10)	AUU AUA	CUU AAA	UCA G	ACU	AGA		No skipping
200	H53A	(-07+18)		UCU CUA		UUG U	טטט		No skipping
201	H53A	(+07+26)	AUC UC	CCA	CUG	AUU	CUG	AAU	No skipping
202	H53A	(+124+145)	UUG AAG	GCU A	CUG	GCC	UGU	ccu	No skipping

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24

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  <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
  <220> FEATURE:
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 <211> LENGTH: 26
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      oligonucleotide
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                                                                         31
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  <400> SEQUENCE: 43
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                                                                         22
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  <211> LENGTH: 20
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  <220> FEATURE:
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                                                                         20
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aggacuuacu ugcuuuguuu
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ucuuuaaagc caguugugug aauc
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90 -continued <220> FEATURE: <220> FEATURE (2007) | Company | Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense <400> SEQUENCE: 65 uuucugaaag ccaugcacua a 21 <210> SEQ ID NO 66 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 66 guacauacgg ccaguuuuug aagac 25 <210> SEQ ID NO 67 <211> LENGTH: 31 <212 > TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 67 cuagaucege uuuuaaaace uguuaaaaca a 31 <210> SEQ ID NO 68 <211> LENGTH: 31 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 68 ucuuuucuag aucegeuuuu aaaaceuguu a 31 <210> SEQ ID NO 69 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 69 25 cuagaucege uuuuaaaaee uguua <210> SEQ ID NO 70 *211 > LENGTH: 23 <212 > TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 70 23 ecqueuucug ggucacugac uua

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                                                                          25
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                                                                         22
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US 9,994,851 B2 96 -continued <220> FERTALL.
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28

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28

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oligonucleotide

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oligonucleotide

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oligonucleotide

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What is claimed is:

1. An antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 31 bases comprising a base sequence that is 100% complementary to consecutive bases of a target region of exon 53 of the human dystrophin pre-mRNA, wherein the target region is within annealing site H53A(+23+47) and annealing site H53A(+39+69), wherein the base sequence comprises at least 12 consecutive bases of CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C (SEQ ID NO: 195), in which uracil bases are thymine bases, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a 40 morpholino antisense oligonucleotide, and wherein the antisense oligonucleotide induces exon 53 skipping; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising: (i) an antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 31 bases comprising a base sequence that is 100% complementary to consecutive bases of a target region of exon 53 of the human dystrophin pre-mRNA, wherein the target region is within annealing site H53A(+23+47) and annealing site H53A(+39+69), wherein the base sequence comprises at least 12 consecutive bases of CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C (SEQ ID NO: 195), in which uracil bases are thymine bases, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a morpholino antisense oligonucleotide, and wherein the antisense oligonucleotide induces exon 53 skipping, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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* * * * *

Case 1:21-cv-01015-JLH Document 433-1 Filed 12/18/23 Page 117 of 231 PageID #: 31644

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,994,851 B2 APPLICATION NO. : 15/705172 : June 12, 2018 NVENTOR(S) : Wilton et al.

Page 1 of 1

It's certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Specification

Column 1, Line 26, before "STATEMENT REGARDING SEQUENCE LISTING", insert: _STATEMENT AS TO FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
This invention was made with government support under grant number R01 NS044146 awarded by

the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.--

Signed and Sealed this Thirty-first Day of July, 2018

Andrei Iancu Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

EXHIBIT 2



US010227590B2

(12) United States Patent

Wilton et al.

(10) Patent No.:

US 10,227,590 B2

(45) Date of Patent:

*Mar. 12, 2019

(54) ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

(71) Applicant: The University of Western Australia, Crawley (AU)

(72) Inventors: Stephen Donald Wilton, Applecross (AU); Sue Fletcher, Bayswater (AU); Graham McClorey, Bayswater (AU)

(73) Assignee: The University of Western Australia, Crawley (AU)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 16/112,371

(22) Filed: Aug. 24, 2018

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2018/0371458 A1 Dec. 27, 2018

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 15/274,772, filed on Sep. 23, 2016, which is a continuation of application No. 14/740,097, filed on Jun. 15, 2015, now Pat. No. 9,605,262, which is a continuation of application No. 13/741,150, filed on Jan. 14, 2013, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 13/168.857, filed on Jun. 24, 2011, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 12/837,359, filed on Jul. 15, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,232,384, which is a continuation of application No. 11/570.691. filed as application No. PCT/AU2005/000943 on Jun. 28, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,807,816.

(30) Foreign Application Priority Data

Jun. 28, 2004 (AU) 2004903474

(51) Int. Cl. C07H 21/04 (2006.01) C12N 15/113 (2010.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.

CPC CI2N 15/113 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/11 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/315 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/321 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/3233 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/33 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/3341 (2013.01); CI2N 2310/3519 (2013.01); CI2N 2320/30 (2013.01); CI2N 2320/33 (2013.01)

(58) Field of Classification Search

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) ABSTRACT

An antisense molecule capable of binding to a selected target site to induce exon skipping in the dystrophin gene, as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 214.

2 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.

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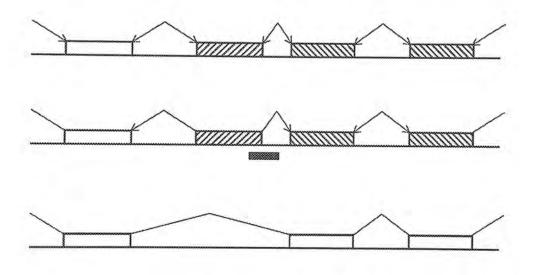


FIGURE 2

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H8A(-06+14) H8A(-06+18)
M 600 300 100 50 20 UT 600 300 100 50 20 UT M

FIGURE 3

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H7A(+45+67) H7A(+2+26)
M 600 300 100 50 20 600NM 600 300 100 50 20 600N M

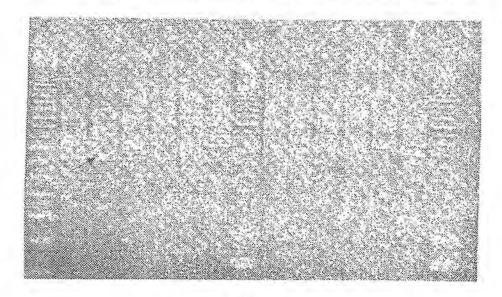


FIGURE 4

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H6D(+4-21) H6D(+18+4)

(nM)

M 600 300 100 50 20 600N M 600 300 100 50 20 UT

FIGURE 5

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6A(+69+91)

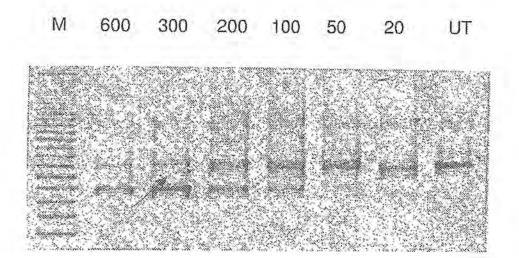


FIGURE 6

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H4A(+13+32)

M 600 300 100 50 20 UT Neg M

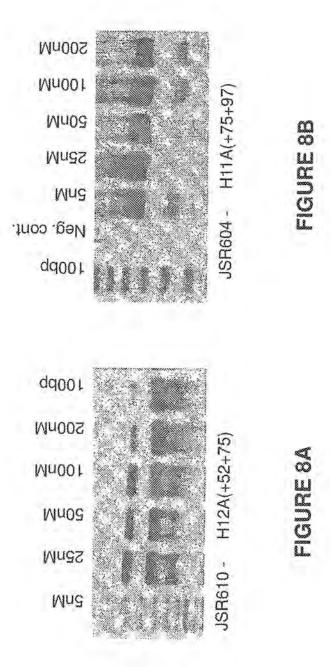
FIGURE 7

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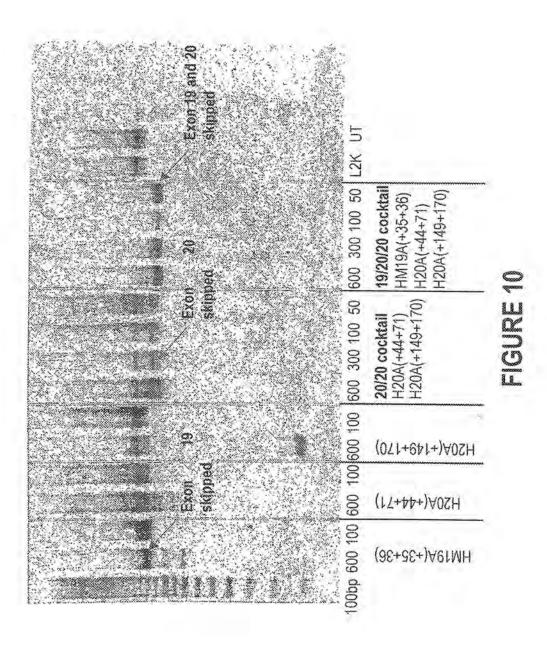


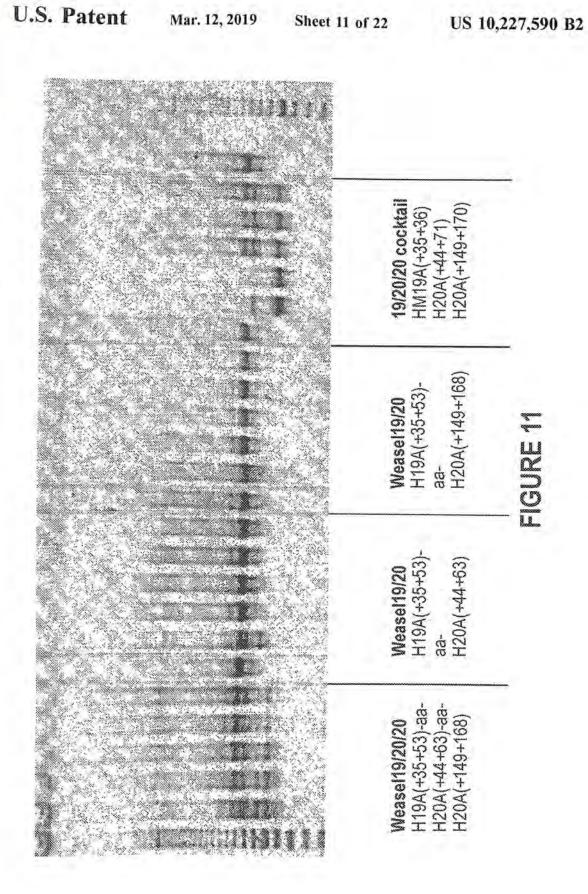
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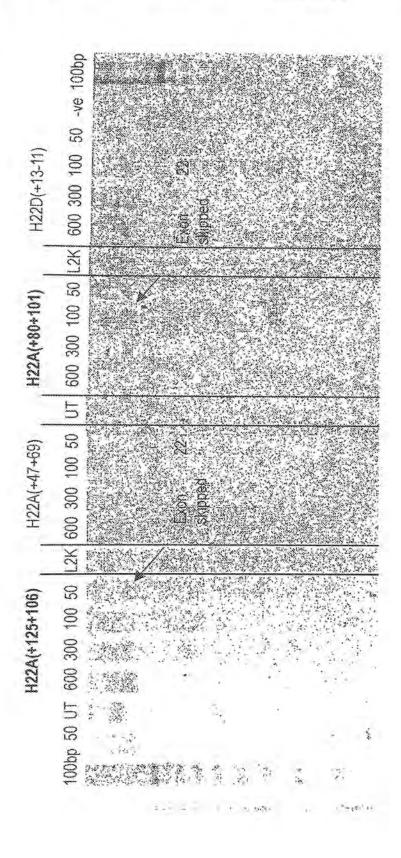
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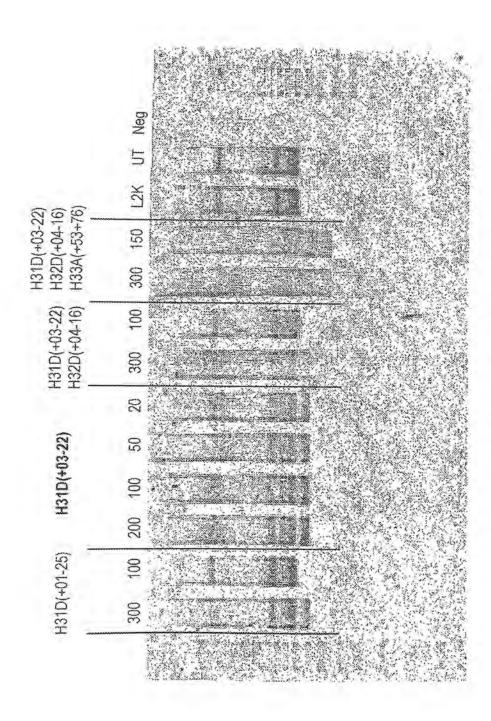




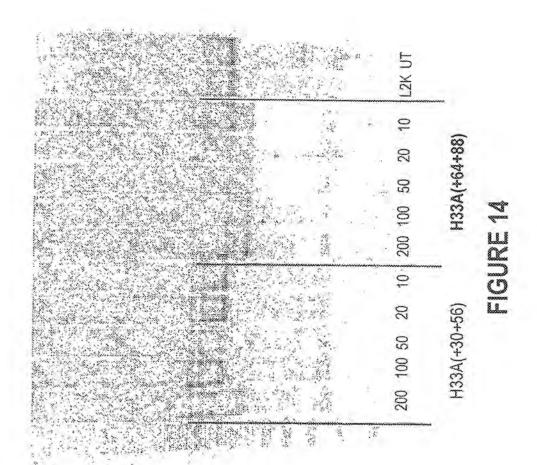
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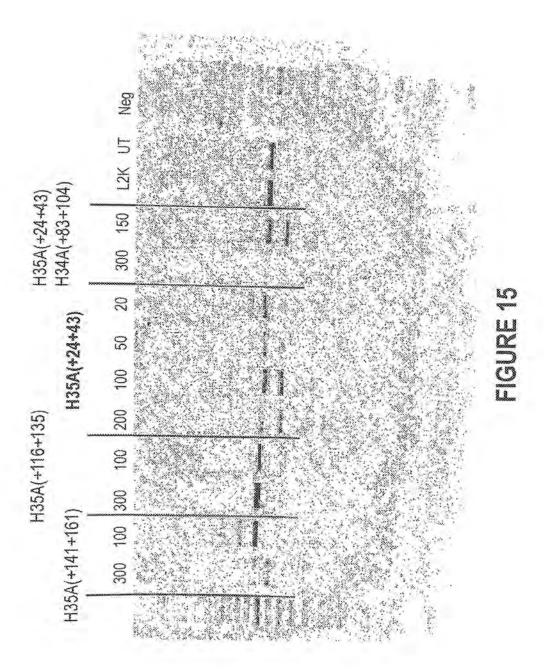
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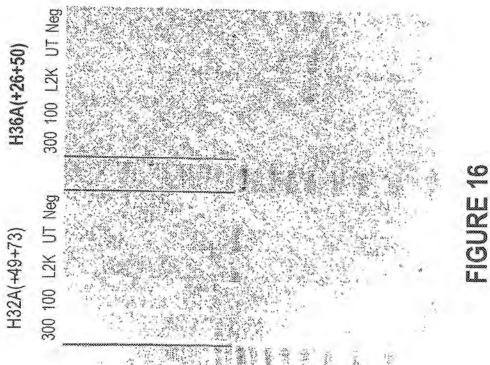
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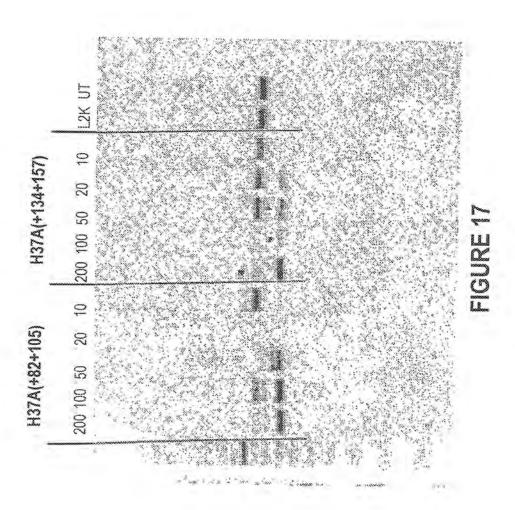
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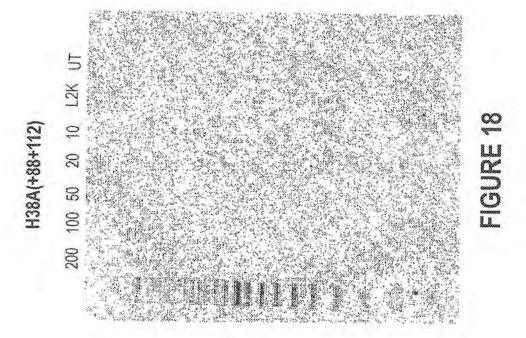
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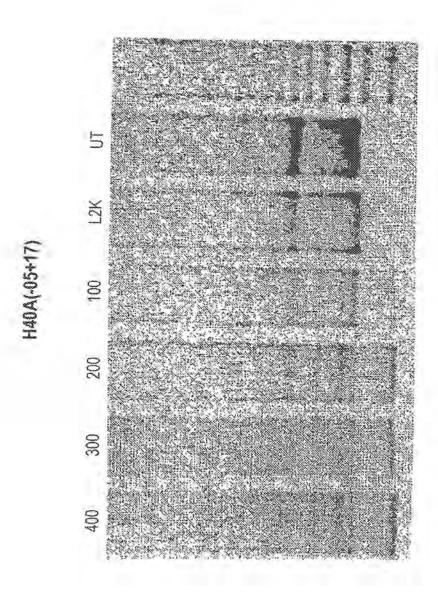
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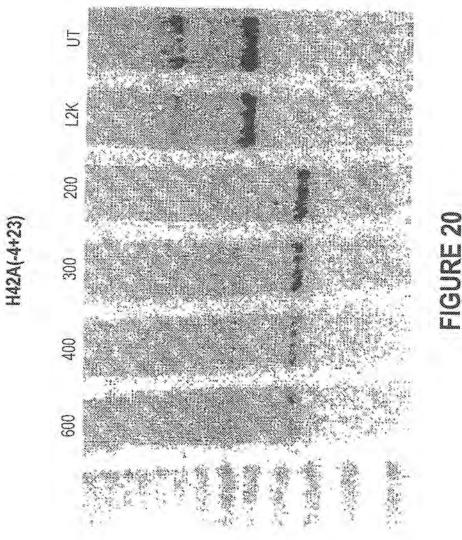


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H46A(+86+115)

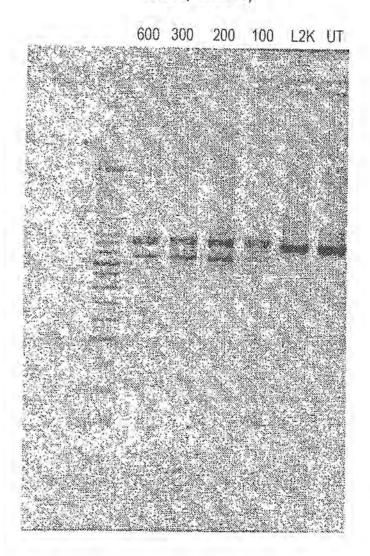
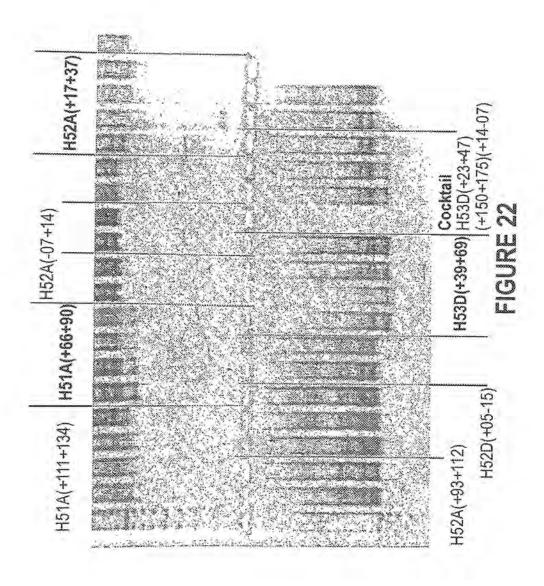


FIGURE 21

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ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/274,772, filed Sep. 23, 2016, now pending, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/740,097, filed Jun. 15, 2015, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 9,605,262, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/741,150, filed Jan. 14, 2013, now abandoned, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/168,857, filed Jun. 24, 2011, now abandoned, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/837,359, filed Jul. 15, 2010, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,232,384, which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/570,691, filed Jan. 15, 2008, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 7,807,816, which application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Phase Application of PCT/AU2005/000943, filed Jun. 28, 2005, which claims priority to Australian Patent Application No. 2004903474, filed Jun. 28, 2004; which applications are each incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

STATEMENT AS TO FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

This invention was made with government support under 30 grant number R01 NS044146 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

STATEMENT REGARDING SEQUENCE LISTING

The Sequence Listing associated with the application is provided in text format in liew of a paper copy, and is hereby incorporated by reference into the specification. The name of the text file containing the Sequence Listing is 4140.01500B0_SL.txt. The text file is 62,078 bytes, was created on Aug. 23, 2018 and is being submitted electronically via EFS-Web.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel antisense compounds and compositions suitable for facilitating exon skipping. It also provides methods for inducing exon skipping so using the novel antisense compounds as well as therapeutic compositions adapted for use in the methods of the invention.

BACKGROUND ART

Significant effort is currently being expended researching methods for suppressing or compensating for disease-causing mutations in genes. Antisense technologies are being developed using a range of chemistries to affect gene expression at a variety of different levels (transcription, splicing, stability, translation). Much of that research has focused on the use of antisense compounds to correct or compensate for abnormal or disease-associated genes in a myriad of different conditions.

Antisense molecules are able to inhibit gene expression with exquisite specificity and because of this many research

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efforts concerning oligonucleotides as modulators of gene expression have focused on inhibiting the expression of targeted genes such as oncogenes or viral genes. The antisense oligonucleotides are directed either against RNA (sense strand) or against DNA where they form triplex structures inhibiting transcription by RNA polymerase II. To achieve a desired effect in specific gene down-regulation, the oligonucleotides must either promote the decay of the targeted mRNA or block translation of that mRNA, thereby effectively preventing de novo synthesis of the undesirable target protein.

Such techniques are not useful where the object is to up-regulate production of the native protein or compensate for mutations which induce premature termination of translation such as nonsense or frame-shifting mutations. Furthermore, in cases where a normally functional protein is prematurely terminated because of mutations therein, a means for restoring some functional protein production through antisense technology has been shown to be possible through intervention during the splicing processes (Sierakowska H, et al., (1996) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 93, 12840-12844; Wilton S D, et al., (1999) Neuromusc Disorders 9, 330-338; van Deutekom J C et al., (2001) Human Mol Genet 10, 1547-1554). In these cases, the defective gene transcript should not be subjected to targeted degradation so the antisense oligonucleotide chemistry should not promote target mRNA decay.

In a variety of genetic diseases, the effects of mutations on the eventual expression of a gene can be modulated through a process of targeted exon skipping during the splicing process. The splicing process is directed by complex multiparticle machinery that brings adjacent exon-intron junctions in pre-mRNA into close proximity and performs cleavage of phosphodiester bonds at the ends of the introns with their subsequent reformation between exons that are to be spliced together. This complex and highly precise process is mediated by sequence motifs in the pre-mRNA that are relatively short semi-conserved RNA segments to which bind the various nuclear splicing factors that are then involved in the splicing reactions. By changing the way the splicing machinery reads or recognises the motifs involved in pre-mRNA processing, it is possible to create differentially spliced mRNA molecules. It has now been recognised that the majority of human genes are alternatively spliced during normal gene expression, although the mechanisms invoked have not been identified. Using antisense oligonucleotides, it has been shown that errors and deficiencies in a coded mRNA could be bypassed or removed from the mature gene transcripts.

In nature, the extent of genetic deletion or exon skipping in the splicing process is not fully understood, although many instances have been documented to occur, generally at very low levels (Sherrat T G, et al., (1993) Am J Hum Genet 53, 1007-1015). However, it is recognised that if exons associated with disease-causing mutations can be specifically deleted from some genes, a shortened protein product can sometimes be produced that has similar biological properties of the native protein or has sufficient biological activity to ameliorate the disease caused by mutations associated with the target exon (Lu Q L, et al., (2003) Nature Medicine 9, 1009-1014; Aartsma-Rus A et al., (2004) Am J Hum Genet 74: 83-92).

This process of targeted exon skipping is likely to be particularly useful in long genes where there are many exons and introns, where there is redundancy in the genetic constitution of the exons or where a protein is able to function without one or more particular exons (e.g. with the dystro-

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phin gene, which consists of 79 exons; or possibly some collagen genes which encode for repeated blocks of sequence or the huge nebulin or titin genes which are comprised of ~80 and over 370 exons, respectively).

Efforts to redirect gene processing for the treatment of 5 genetic diseases associated with truncations caused by mutations in various genes have focused on the use of antisense oligonucleotides that either: (1) fully or partially overlap with the elements involved in the splicing process; or (2) bind to the pre-mRNA at a position sufficiently close to the element to disrupt the binding and function of the splicing factors that would normally mediate a particular splicing reaction which occurs at that element (e.g., binds to the pre-mRNA at a position within 3, 6, or 9 nucleotides of the element to be blocked).

For example, modulation of mutant dystrophin premRNA splicing with antisense oligoribonucleotides has been reported both in vitro and in vivo. In one type of dystrophin mutation reported in Japan, a 52-base pair deletion mutation causes exon 19 to be removed with the 20 flanking introns during the splicing process (Matsuo et al., (1991) J Clin Invest., 87:2127-2131). An in vitro minigene splicing system has been used to show that a 31-mer 2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotide complementary to the 5' half of the deleted sequence in dystrophin Kobe exon 19 25 mhibited splicing of wild-type pre-mRNA (Takeshima et al. (1995), J. Clin. Invest., 95, 515-520). The same oligonucleotide was used to induce exon skipping from the native dystrophin gene transcript in human cultured lymphoblastoid cells.

Dunckley et al., (1997) Nucleosides & Nucleotides, 16, 1665-1668 described in vitro constructs for analysis of splicing around exon 23 of mutated dystrophin in the mdx mouse mutant, a model for muscular dystrophy. Plans to analyse these constructs in vitro using 2' modified oligonucleotides targeted to splice sites within and adjacent to mouse dystrophin exon 23 were discussed, though no target sites or sequences were given.

2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotides were subsequently reported to correct dystrophin deficiency in myoblasts from 40 the mdx mouse from this group. An antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the 3' splice site of murine dystrophin intron 22 was reported to cause skipping of the mutant exon as well as several flanking exons and created a novel in-frame dystrophin transcript with a novel internal deletion. This 45 mutated dystrophin was expressed in 1-2% of antisense treated mdx myotubes. Use of other oligonucleotide modifications such as 2'-O-methoxyethyl phosphodiesters are described (Dunckley et al. (1998) Human Mol. Genetics, 5, 1083-90)

Thus, antisense molecules may provide a tool in the treatment of genetic disorders such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). However, attempts to induce exon skipping using antisense molecules have had mixed success. Studies on dystrophin exon 19, where successful skipping of 5s that exon from the dystrophin pre-mRNA was achieved using a variety of antisense molecules directed at the flanking splice sites or motifs within the exon involved in exon definition as described by Errington et al. (2003) *J Gen Med* 5, 518-527".

In contrast to the apparent ease of exon 19 skipping, the first report of exon 23 skipping in the mdx mouse by Dunckley et al., (1998) is now considered to be reporting only a naturally occurring revertant transcript or artefact rather than any true antisense activity. In addition to not 65 consistently generating transcripts missing exon 23, Dunckley et al., (1998) did not show any time course of induced

exon skipping, or even titration of antisense oligonucleotides, to demonstrate dose dependent effects where the levels of exon skipping corresponded with increasing or decreasing amounts of antisense oligonucleotide. Furthermore, this work could not be replicated by other researchers.

The first example of specific and reproducible exon skipping in the mdx mouse model was reported by Wilton et al., (1999) Neuromuscular Disorders 9, 330-338. By directing an antisense molecule to the donor splice site, consistent and efficient exon 23 skipping was induced in the dystrophin mRNA within 6 hours of treatment of the cultured cells. Wilton et al. (1999), also describe targeting the acceptor region of the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA with longer antisense oligonucleotides and being unable to repeat the published results of Dunckley et al., (1998). No exon skipping, either 23 alone or multiple removal of several flanking exons, could be reproducibly detected using a selection of antisense oligonucleotides directed at the acceptor splice site of intron 22.

While the first antisense oligonucleotide directed at the intron 23 donor splice site induced consistent exon skipping in primary cultured myoblasts, this compound was found to be much less efficient in immortalized cell cultures expressing higher levels of dystrophin. However, with refined targeting and antisense oligonucleotide design, the efficiency of specific exon removal was increased by almost an order of magnitude (see Mann C J et al., (2002) J Gen Med 4, 644-654).

Thus, there remains a need to provide antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to and modifying the splicing of a target nucleotide sequence. Simply directing the antisense oligonucleotides to motifs presumed to be crucial for splicing is no guarantee of the efficacy of that compound in a therapeutic setting.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides antisense molecule compounds and compositions suitable for binding to RNA motifs involved in the splicing of pre-mRNA that are able to induce specific and efficient exon skipping and a method for their use thereof.

The choice of target selection plays a crucial role in the efficiency of exon skipping and hence its subsequent application of a potential therapy. Simply designing antisense molecules to target regions of pre-mRNA presumed to be involved in splicing is no guarantee of inducing efficient and specific exon skipping. The most obvious or readily defined targets for splicing intervention are the donor and acceptor splice sites although there are less defined or conserved motifs including exonic splicing enhancers, silencing elements and branch points.

The acceptor and donor splice sites have consensus sequences of about 16 and 8 bases respectively (see FIG. 1 for schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splicing process).

According to a first aspect, the invention provides antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to 60 induce exon skipping.

For example, to induce exon skipping in exons 3 to 8, 10 to 16, 19 to 40, 42 to 44, 46, 47, and 50 to 53 in the Dystrophin gene transcript the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group listed in Table 1A.

In a further example, it is possible to combine two or more antisense oligonucleotides of the present invention together to induce multiple exon skipping in exons 19-20, and 53.

This is a similar concept to targeting of a single exon. A combination or "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides are directed at adjacent exons to induce efficient exon skipping.

In another example, to induce exor skipping in exons 19-20, 31, 34 and 53 it is possible to improve exon skipping of a single exon by joining together two or more antisense oligonucleotide molecules. This concept is termed by the inventor as a "weasel", an example of a cunningly designed antisense oligonucleotide. A similar concept has been described in Aartsma-Rus A et al., (2004) Am J Hum Genet 10, 74: 83-92).

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides antisense molecules selected and or adapted to aid in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a genetic disorder comprising at least an antisense molecule in a form 15 suitable for delivery to a patient.

According to a third aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a patient suffering from a genetic disease wherein there is a mutation in a gene encoding a particular protein and the affect of the mutation can be abrogated by 20 exon skipping, comprising the steps of: (a) selecting an antisense molecule in accordance with the methods described herein; and (b) administering the molecule to a patient in need of such treatment.

The invention also addresses the use of purified and 25 isolated antisense oligonucleotides of the invention, for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of a genetic disease.

The invention further provides a method of treating a condition characterised by Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

30 which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of an appropriately designed antisense oligonucleotide of the invention, relevant to the particular genetic lesion in that patient. Further, the invention provides a method for prophylactically treating a patient to prevent or at least minimise Duchene muscular dystrophy, comprising the step of: administering to the patient an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide or a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of these biological molecules.

The invention also provides kits for treating a genetic disease, which kits comprise at least a antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention, packaged in a suitable container and instructions for its use.

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will 45 become apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the ensuing description, which proceeds with reference to the following figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 Schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splicing process (SEQ ID NOS: 213 and 214).

FIG. 2. Diagrammatic representation of the concept of 55 antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping to by-pass disease-causing mutations (not drawn to scale). The hatched box represents an exon carrying a mutation that prevents the translation of the rest of the mRNA into a protein. The solid black bar represents an antisense oligonucleotide that prevents inclusion of that exon in the mature mRNA.

FIG. 3 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. The preferred compound [H8A(-06+18)] induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured normal human muscle cells. The less preferred antisense oligonucleotide

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[H8A(-06+14)] also induces efficient exon skipping, but at much higher concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no detectable skipping at all (not shown).

FIG. 4 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at internal domains within exon 7, presumably exon splicing enhancers. The preferred compound [H7A(+45+67)] induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells. The less preferred antisense oligonucleotide [H7A(+2+26)] induces only low levels of exon skipping at the higher transfection concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no detectable skipping at all (not shown).

FIG. 5 Gel electrophoresis showing an example of low efficiency exon 6 skipping using two non-preferred antisense molecules directed at human exon 6 donor splice site. Levels of induced exon 6 skipping are either very low [H6D(+04–21)] or almost undetectable [H6D(+18–04)]. These are examples of non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides to demonstrate that antisense oligonucleotide design plays a crucial role in the efficacy of these compounds.

FIG. 6 Gel electrophoresis showing strong and efficient human exon 6 skipping using an antisense molecules [H6A(+69+91)] directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells.

FIG. 7 Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 4 skipping using an antisense molecule H4A(+13+32) directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells,

FIG. 8A Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 12 skipping using antisense molecule H12A(+52+75) directed at exon 12 internal domain.

FIG. 8B Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon
 11 skipping using antisense molecule H11A(+75+97)
 directed at an exon 11 internal domain.

FIG. 9A Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 15 skipping using antisense molecules H15A(+48+71) and H15A(-12+19) directed at an exon 15 internal domain.

FIG. 9B Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 16 skipping using antisense molecules H16A(-12+19) and H16A(-06+25).

FIG. 10 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using antisense molecules H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at an exon 20 and a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H19A(+35+65, H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at exons 19/20.

FIG. 11 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" directed at exons 19 and 20.

FIG. 12 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 22 skipping using antisense molecules H22A(+125+106), H22A(+47+69), H22A(+80+101) and H22D(+13-11) directed at exon 22.

FIG. 13 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 31 skipping using antisense molecules H31D(+01-25) and H31D(+03-22); and a "cocktail" of antisense molecules directed at exon 31

FIG. 14 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 33 skipping using antisense molecules H33A(+30+56) and H33A(+64+58) directed at exon 33.

FIG. 15 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 35 skipping using antisense molecules H35A(+141+161), H35A(+116+

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135), and H35A(+24+43) and a "cocktail of two antisense molecules, directed at exon 35.

FIG. 16 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 36 skipping using antisense molecules H32A(+49+73) and H36A(+26+50) directed at exon 36.

FIG. 17 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 37 skipping using antisense molecules H37A(+82+105) and H37A(+134+157) directed at exon 37.

FIG. 18 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 38 skipping using antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) directed at exon 10 38.

FIG. 19 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 40 skipping using antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) directed at exon 40.

FIG. 20 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 42 skipping using antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) directed at exon

FIG. 21 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 46 skipping 5 using antisense molecule H46A(+86+115) directed a# exon 46

FIG. 22 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 51, exon 52 and exon 53 skipping using various antisense molecules directed at exons 51, 52 and 53, respectively. A "cocktail" of antisense molecules is also shown directed at exon 53.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE LISTINGS

TABLE 1A

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
1	H8A(-06+18)	GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA
2	H8A (-03+18)	GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG
3	H8A(-07+18)	GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA G
4	H8A (-06+14)	GGU GGU AUC AAC AUC UGU AA
5	H8A (-10+10)	GUA UCA ACA UCU GUA AGC AC
6	H7A(+45+67)	UGC AUG UUC CAG UCG UUG UGU GG
7	H7A(+02+26)	CAC UAU UCC AGU CAA AUA GGU CUG G
8	H7D(+15-10)	AUU UAC CAA CCU UCA GGA UCG AGU A
9	H7A(-18+03)	GGC CUA AAA CAC AUA CAC AUA
10	C6A(-10+10)	CAU UUU UGA CCU ACA UGU GG
11	C6A(+14+06)	UUU GAC CUA CAU GUG GAA AG
12	C6A(+14+12)	UAC AUU UUU GAC CUA CAU GUG GAA AG
13	C6A(-13+09)	AUU DUD GAC CUA CAU GGG AAA G
14	CH6A(+69+91)	UAC GAG UUG AUU GUC GGA CCC AG
15	C6D(+12-13)	GUG GUC UCC UUA CCU AUG ACU GUG G
16	C6D(+06-11)	GGU CUC CUU ACC UAU GA
17	H6D(+04-21)	UGU CUC AGU AAU CUU CUU ACC UAU
18	H6D(+18-04)	UCU UAC CUA UGA CUA UGG AUG AGA
19	H4A(+13+32)	GCA UGA ACU CUU GUG GAU CC
20	H4D(+04-16)	CCA GGG UAC UAC UUA CAU UA
21	H4D (-24-44)	AUC GUG UGU CAC AGC AUC CAG
22	H4A(+11+40)	UGU UCA GGG CAU GAA CUC UUG UGG AUC
23	H3A(+30+60)	UAG GAG GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU G
24	H3A (+35+65)	AGG UCU AGG AGG CGC CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG U
25	H3A(+30+54)	GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU G

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

27 H3A(+30+50) CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG UCA CUG 28 H3D(+19-03) UAC CAG UUU UUG CCC UGU CAG G 29 H3A(-06+20) UCA AUA UGC UGC UCC CAU ACC UGA AA 30 H3A(+37+61) CUA GGA GGC GCC UCC CAU CCU GUA G 31 H5A(+20+50) UUA UGA UUU CCA UCU ACG AUG UCA GUA 32 H5D(+25-05) CUU ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU AUA UUC 33 H5D(+10-15) CAU CAG GAU UCU UAC CUG CCA GUG G 34 H5A(+10+34) CGA UGU CAG UAC UUC CAA UAU UCA C 35 H5D(-04-21) ACC AUU CAU CAG GAU UCU 36 H5D(+16-02) ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU 37 H5A(-07+20) CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA 38 H5D(+18-12) CAG GAU UGU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU 40 H5A(+15+45) AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU 41 H10A(-05+16) CAG GAG CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU 42 H10A(-05+24) CUU GUC UUC CAA AUG GCU GCA 43 H10A(+98+119) UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G 44 H10A(-33-14) UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU 45 H10A(-33-14) UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU 46 H11D(+26+49) AGG ACU UCC GA AUU UCC CAU UUG CAU 47 H11D(+11-09) AGG ACU UCC GA AUU UUC CUG UU 48 H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA AUU UUC CUG UU 49 H11A(+75+97) UCC UCU GUU UUU GUU AAA ACC UCA GAA AAU UUC UCU GUU UUU GUU UUU GUU UUU GUU UUU GUU AAA ACC UCU CUU GUU UUU GUU UUU GUU AAA ACC UCU CUU CUU AAA AUU UUC CUG UUU GUU UUU GUU AAA ACC UCU CUU CUU AAA AUU UUC CUG UUU GUU UUU GUU AAA ACC UCU CUU CUU AAA ACC UCU CUU CU	SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
### ##################################	26	H3D(+46-21)	CUU CGA GGA GGU CUA GGA GGC GCC UC
### ##################################	27	H3A(+30+50)	CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG UCA CUG
H3A(+37+61) CUA GGA GGC GCC UCC CAU CCU GUA G	28	H3D(+19-03)	UAC CAG UUU UUG CCC UGU CAG G
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##	29	H3A(-06+20)	UCA AUA UGC UGC UUC CCA AAC UGA AA
## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ##	30	H3A(+37+61)	CUA GGA GGC GCC UCC CAU CCU GUA G
CAA A 33	31	H5A(+20+50)	and the first of the second se
34 H5A(+10+34) CGA UGU CAG UAC UUC CAA UAU UCA C 35 H5D(-04-21) ACC AUU CAU CAG GAU UCU 36 H5D(+16-02) ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU 37 H5A(-07+20) CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA 38 H5D(+18-12) CAG GAU UGU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU 39 H5A(+05+35) ACG AUG UCA GUA CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU 40 H5A(+15+45) AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC 41 H10A(-05+16) CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA 42 H10A(-05+24) CUU GUC UUC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG GA 43 H10A(+98+119) UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G 44 H10A(+30+149) UUA GAA AUU GCU UCU UGU GC 45 H10A(-33-14) UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU 46 H11D(+26+49) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU 47 H11D(+11-09) AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU 48 H11A(+15+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 50 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAC UCA 51 H12A(+11+30) <td>32</td> <td>H5D(+25-05)</td> <td>The state of the s</td>	32	H5D(+25-05)	The state of the s
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##	33	HSD(+10-15)	CAU CAG GAU UCU UAC CUG CCA GUG G
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##	34	H5A(+10+34)	CGA UGU CAG UAC UUC CAA UAU UCA C
27 H5A(-07+20) CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA 38 H5D(+18-12) CAG GAU UGU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU 39 H5A(+05+35) ACG AUG UCA GUA CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU 40 H5A(+15+45) AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC 41 H10A(-05+16) CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA 42 H10A(-05+24) CUU GUC UUC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA 43 H10A(+98+119) UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G 44 H10A(-130+149) UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC 45 H10A(-33-14) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU 46 H11D(+26+49) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU 47 H11D(+11-09) AGG ACU UUC CUU UGU UU 48 H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG 49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 49 H11A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 40 UCU GGG AGA UCC CAC CAC CAU 41 H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG UUC CGG GAU CUC CAC UAG 41 H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG UAC CAC CAC CAU 42 CUU GUA AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 43 H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG AUG CAG CAC CAU 44 H13A(+14+35) CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAC CAU 45 H13A(+37+64) CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAC CAU 46 CAG UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 46 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 46 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 46 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 47 GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 48 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	35	H5D(-04-21)	ACC AUU CAU CAG GAU UCU
28 H5D(+18-12) CAG GAU UGU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU UAU ACG AUG UCA GUA CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA U AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU A AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU A CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA CUU GUC UUC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA AUG CUC GCA GAA AGA AGA AGC CAC G H10A(-05+24) UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC H10A(+130+149) UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU H10A(+130+149) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU H11D(+26+49) AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG H13A(+75+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UA CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UA CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UA CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UA CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCA CAC CUA CAG AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CAG CAG UUG CUG GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UAAAA GGA CCC CUA CAG AUG UUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA CGA UUG CUA CAG AUG UUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA CGA UUG CUA CAG AUG UUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA CGA UUG CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA CAA CUA CUA CAA CAA CCC CAA CAA CUA CAA CAA CCC CAA CAA CUA CUA CAA CAA CCC CAA CAA CUA CAA CAA CCC CAA CAA CAA CAA CCC CAA CAA	36	H5D(+16-02)	ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU
### #### #############################	37	H5A(-07+20)	CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA
AAA U AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU A AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU A AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU A CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA CUU GUC UCA AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA AUG CUC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G AUU AGAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC AUU AGA AUC UCC CCU UGU GC AUU AGA AUC UCC AUC UUG AAU AUU AGA AUC UCC AUC UUG AAU AUU AGA AUU UGC UU UGU UU AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU AUG AAU UU AGG AGA UUC CUG UU AUG AUU UUG UUU UUU UU UU AUG AAU UUU AGG AGA UUC CUG UU AUG UUU AUG UUU UUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA AUU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU AUC AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU AUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC AUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU AUG AAC AAC AAC CAC CAC AUC AAC AAC CAC CAC CAU AUC AAC CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U AAC CAC AAC AUC UUU GCC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC UUU GCC CAU C AAC CAC AUG UUU CUC CAC UAC AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAU AUC CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAU C AAC CAC AAC AUC CAC CAC CAC CAC CAC CAC	38	H5D(+18-12)	
AAU A 41 H10A(-05+16) CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA 42 H10A(-05+24) CUU GUC UCC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CU 43 H10A(+98+119) UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G 44 H10A(+130+149) UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC 45 H10A(-33-14) UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU 46 H11D(+26+49) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU 47 H11D(+11-09) AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU 48 H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG 49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 40 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 51 H12A(-10+10) UUC UGG AGA UCC AUC AAA AC 52 H13A(+77+100) UUC AGC AGC GAU CCC CAC CAU 53 H13A(+77+100) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 55 H13D(+06-19) CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UU 56 H14A(+37+64) CAG CGA AUG UUU GCC CAU C 66 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 67 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC 68 GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA	39	H5A (+05+35)	
42 H10A(-05+24) 43 H10A(+98+119) 44 H10A(+130+149) 45 H10A(-33-14) 46 H11D(+26+49) 47 H11D(+11-09) 48 H11A(+118+140) 49 H11A(+75+97) 50 H12A(-10+10) 51 H13A(+77+100) 52 H13A(+55+75) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) 50 CCU GA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC CAC CAC CAC CAC	40	H5A(+15+45)	
### ##################################	41	H10A(-05+16)	CAG GAG CUU CCA AAU GCU GCA
44 H10A(+130+149) 45 H10A(-33-14) 46 H11D(+26+49) 47 H11D(+11-09) 48 H11A(+118+140) 49 H11A(+75+97) 50 H12A(+52+75) 51 H12A(-10+10) 52 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+77+100) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) 50 UAA AUC UCU CUU UCU UCU UCU UCU UCU UCU	42	H10A(-05+24)	CUU GUC UUC AGG AGC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA
45 H10A(-33-14) 46 H11D(+26+49) 47 H11D(+11-09) 48 H11A(+118+140) 49 H11A(+75+97) 50 H12A(+52+75) 51 H12A(-10+10) 52 H13A(+77+100) 53 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+55+75) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU CCC UGA GGC AUU UUU GUU UGU UU CCU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU UCU GUU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG CUU AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU CUU GUA AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	43	H10A(+98+119)	UCC UCA GCA GAA AGA AGC CAC G
46 H11D(+26+49) CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU 47 H11D(+11-09) AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU 48 H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG 49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 50 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 51 H12A(-10+10) UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC 52 H12A(+11+30) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 53 H13A(+77+100) UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU 54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 55 H13D(+06-19) CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U 56 H14A(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C 57 H14A(+14+35) GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	44	H10A(+130+149)	UUA GAA AUC UCU CCU UGU GC
47 H11D(+11-09) 48 H11A(+118+140) 49 H11A(+75+97) 50 H12A(+52+75) 51 H12A(-10+10) 52 H12A(+11+30) 53 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+55+75) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UUU GUU UUC AUG UU CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU CAU CUU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG UCAC CAU CAU CAC CAC CAU CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	45	H10A(-33-14)	UAA AUU GGG UGU UAC ACA AU
48 H11A(+118+140) CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG 49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 50 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 51 H12A(-10+10) UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC 52 H12A(+11+30) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 53 H13A(+77+100) UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU 54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 55 H13D(+06-19) CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U 56 H14A(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC CAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	46	H11D(+26+49)	CCC UGA GGC AUU CCC AUC UUG AAU
48 H11A(+118140) 49 H11A(+75+97) 50 H12A(+52+75) 51 H12A(-10+10) 52 H12A(+11+30) 53 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+55+75) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU CUG CUU CUG UU CUG UU CUG UU CUG CUU CUG UU CUG UU CUG CUU CUG UU CUG CUU CUG UU CUG CUU CUG UU CUG CUU CUG CU CU CU CUG UU	47	H11D(+11-09)	AGG ACU UAC UUG CUU UGU UU
49 H11A(+75+97) CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU 50 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 51 H12A(-10+10) UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC 52 H12A(+11+30) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 53 H13A(+77+100) UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU 54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 56 H14A(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	48	H11A(+118+140)	CUU GAA UUU AGG AGA UUC AUC UG
50 H12A(+52+75) UCU UCU UCU UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA 112A(-10+10) UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU 12 H12A(+11+30) UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG H13A(+77+100) UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U THAA(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC		H11A(+75+97)	CAU CUU CUG AUA AUU UUC CUG UU
51 H12A(-10+10) 52 H12A(+11+30) 53 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+55+75) 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) 58 UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC	50		UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA
52 H12A(+11+30) CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 53 H13A(+77+100) 54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC			UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU
CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG 54 H13A(+55+75) UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU 55 H13D(+06-19) 56 H14A(+37+64) 57 H14A(+14+35) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC			UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC
54 H13A(+55+75) CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC			CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG
CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC			UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU
56 H14A(+37+64) CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C 57 H14A(+14+35) GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC			CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G
CAU CUA CAG AUG UUU GCC CAU C 57 H14A(+14+35) GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC			CUU GUA AAA GAA CCC AGC GGU CUU CUG U
GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC			CAU CUA CAG AUG DUU GCC CAU C
			GAA GGA UGU CUU GUA AAA GAA CC

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

ID	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
59	H14D(-02+18)	ACC UGU UCU UCA GUA AGA CG
60	H14D(+14-10)	CAU GAC ACA CCU GUU CUU CAG UAA
61	H14A(+61+80)	CAU UUG AGA AGG AUG UCU UG
62	H14A(-12+12)	AUC UCC CAA UAC CUG GAG AAG AGA
63	H15A(-12+19)	GCC AUG CAC UAA AAA GGC ACU GCA AGA
64	H15A(+48+71)	UCU UUA AAG CCA GUU GUG UGA AUC
65	H15A(+08+28)	UUU CUG AAA GCC AUG CAC UAA
66	H15D(+17-08)	GUA CAU ACG GCC AGU UUU UGA AGA C
67	H16A(-12+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AAA ACA A
ó8	H16A(-06+25)	UCU UUU CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A
69	H16A(-06+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A
70	H16A(+87+109)	CCG UCU UCU GGG UCA CUG ACU UA
71	H16A(-07+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA
72	H16A(-07+13)	CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA
73	H16A(+12+37)	UGG AUU GCU UUU UCU UUU CUA GAU CC
74	H16A(+92+116)	CAU GOU UCC GUC UUC UGG GUC ACU G
75	H16A(+45+67)	G AUC UUG UUU GAG UGA AUA CAG U
76	H16A(+105+126)	GUU AUC CAG CCA UGC UUC CGU C
77	H16D(+05-20)	UGA UAA UUG GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU G
78	H16D(+12-11)	GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU GCU GUA C
79	H19A(+35+53)	CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
80	H19A(+35+65)	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
81	H20A(+44+71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C
82	H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C
83	H20A(+185+203)	UGA UGG GGU GGU GGG UUG G
84	H20A(-08+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA G
85	H20A(+30+53)	CCG GCU GUU CAG UUG UUC UGA GGC
86	H20A(-11+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA GAA A
87	H20D(+08-20)	GAA GGA GAA GAG AUU CUU ACC UUA CAA A
98		AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC
89	H20A(+149+168	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GC
90	H21A(-06+15)	GCC GGU UGA CUU CAU CCU GUG C
91	H21A(+85+106)	CUG CAU CCA GGA ACA UGG GUC C
31.	H21A(+85+108)	GUC UGC AUC CAG GAA CAU GGG UC

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
93	H21A(+08+31)	GUU GAA GAU CUG AUA GCC GGU UGA
94	H21D(+18-07)	UAC UUA CUG UCU GUA GCU CUU UCU
95	H22A(+22+45)	CAC UCA UGG UCU CCU GAU AGC GCA
96	H22A(+125+106)	CUG CAA UUC CCC GAG UCU CUG C
97	H22A(+47+69)	ACU GCU GGA CCC AUG UCC UGA UG
98	H22A(+80+101)	CUA AGU UGA GGU AUG GAG AGU
99	H22D(+13-11)	UAU UCA CAG ACC UGC AAU UCC CC
100	H23A(+34+59)	ACA GUG GUG CUG AGA UAG UAU AGG CC
101	H23A(+18+39)	UAG GCC ACU UUG UUG CUC UUG C
102	H23A(+72+90)	UUC AGA GGG CGC UUU CUU C
103	H24A(+48+70)	GGG CAG GCC AUU CCU CCU UCA GA
104	H24A(-02+22)	UCU UCA GGG UUU GUA UGU GAU UCU
105	H25A(+9+36)	CUG GGC UGA AUU GUC UGA AUA UCA CUG
106	H25A(+131+156)	CUG UUG GCA CAU GUG AUC CCA CUG AG
107	H25D(+16-08)	GUC UAU ACC UGU UGG CAC AUG UGA
108	H26A(+132+156)	UGC UUU CUG UAA UUC AUC UGG AGU U
109	H26A(-07+19)	CCU CCU UUC UGG CAU AGA CCU UCC AC
110	H26A(+68+92)	UGU GUC AUC CAU UCG UGC AUC UCU G
111	H27A(+82+106)	UUA AGG CCU CUU GUG CUA CAG GUG G
112	H27A(-4+19)	GGG GCU CUU CUU UAG CUC UCU GA
113	H27D(+19-03)	GAC UUC CAA AGU CUU GCA UUU C
114	H28A(-05+19)	GCC AAC AUG CCC AAA CUU CCU AAG
115	H28A(+99+124)	CAG AGA UUU CCU CAG CUC CGC CAG GA
116	H28D(+16-05)	CUU ACA UCU AGC ACC UCA GAG
117	H29A(+57+81)	UCC GCC AUC UGU UAG GGU CUG UGC C
118	H29A(+18+42)	AUU UGG GUU AUC CUC UGA AUG UCG C
119	H29D(+17-05)	CAU ACC UCU UCA UGU AGU UCC C
20	H30A(+122+147)	CAU UUG AGC UGC GUC CAC CUU GUC UG
21	H30A(+25+50)	UCC UGG GCA GAC UGG AUG CUC UGU UC
	H30D(+19-04)	UUG CCU GGG CUU CCU GAG GCA UU
	H31D(+06-18)	UUC UGA AAU AAC AUA UAC CUG UGC
	H31D(+03-22)	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G
	H31A(+05+25)	GAC UUG UCA AAU CAG AUU GGA
	H31D(+04-20)	GUU UCU GAA AUA ACA UAU ACC UGU
	H32D(+04-16)	CAC CAG AAA UAC AUA CCA CA

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ	SEQUENCE	or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T". NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
128	H32A(+151+170)	CAA UGA UUU AGC UGU GAC UG
129	H32A(+10+32)	CGA AAC UUC AUG GAG ACA UCU UG
130	H32A(+49+73)	CUU GUA GAC GCU GCU CAA AAU UGG C
131	H33D(+09-11)	CAU GCA CAC ACC UUU GCU CC
132	H33A(+53+76)	UCU GUA CAA UCU GAC GUC CAG UCU
133	H33A(+30+56)	GUC DUU AUC ACC AUU DCC ACU DCA GAC
134	H33A(+64+88)	CCG UCU GCU UUU UCU GUA CAA UCU G
135	H34A(+83+104)	UCC AUA UCU GUA GCU GCC AGC C
136	H34A(+143+165)	CCA GGC AAC UUC AGA AUC CAA AU
137	H34A(-Z0+10)	UUU CUG UUA CCU GAA AAG AAU UAU AAU
138	H34A(+46+70)	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G
139	H34A(+95+120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG
140	H34D(+10-20)	UUC AGU GAU AUA GGU UUU ACC UUU CCC CAG
141	H34A(+72+96)	CUG UAG CUG CCA GCC AUU CUG UCA AG
142	H35A(+141+161)	UCU UCU GCU CGG GAG GUG ACA
143	H35A(+116+135)	CCA GUU ACU AUU CAG AAG AC
144	H35A(+24+43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU
145	H36A(+26+50)	UGU GAU GUG GUC CAC AUU CUG GUC A
146	H36A(-02+18)	CCA UGU GUU UCU GGU AUU CC
147	H37A(+26+50)	CGU GUA GAG UCC ACC UUU GGG CGU A
148	H37A(+82+105)	UAC UAA UUU CCU GCA GUG GUC ACC
149	H37A(+134+157)	UUC UGU GUG AAA UGG CUG CAA AUC
150	H38A(-01+19)	CCU UCA AAG GAA UGG AGG CC
151	H38A(+59+83)	UGC UGA AUU UCA GCC UCC AGU GGU U
152	H38A(+88+112)	UGA AGU CUU CCU CUU UCA GAU UCA C
151	H39A(+62+85)	CUG GCU UUC UCU CAU CUG UGA UUC
154	H39A(+39+58)	GUU GUA AGU UGU CUC CUC UU
155	H39A(+102+121)	UUG UCU GUA ACA GCU GCU GU
156	H39D(+10-10)	GCU CUA AUA CCU UGA GAG CA
157	H40A(-05+17)	CUU UGA GAC CUC AAA DCC UGU U
158	H40A(+129+153)	CUU UAU UUU CCU UUC AUC UCU GGG C
159 1	H42A(-04+23)	AUC GUU UCU UCA CGG ACA GUG UGC UGG
160	H42A(+86+109)	GGG CUU GUG AGA CAU GAG UGA UUU
	442D(+19-02)	A CCU UCA GAG GAC UCC UCU UGC
	443D(+10-15)	UAU GUG UUA CCU ACC CUU GUC GGU C

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

EQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5° - 3')
163	H43A(+101+120)	GGA GAG AGC UUC CUG UAG CU
164	H43A(+78+100)	UCA CCC UUU CCA CAG GCG UUG CA
165	H44A(+85+104)	UUU GUG UCU UUC UGA GAA AC
166	H44D(+10-10)	AAA GAC UUA CCU UAA GAU AC
167	H44A(-06+14)	AUC UGU CAA AUC GCC UGC AG
168	H46D(+16-04)	UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU CAA GC
169	H46A(+90+109)	UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU AC
170	H47A(+76+100)	GCU CUU CUG GGC UUA UGG GAG CAC U
171	H47D(+25-02)	ACC UUU AUC CAC UGG AGA UUU GUC UGC
172	H47A(-9+12)	UUC CAC CAG UAA CUG AAA CAG
173	H50A(+02+30)	CCA CUC AGA GCU CAG AUC UUC UAA CUU CC
174	H50A(+07+33)	CUU CCA CUC AGA GCU CAG AUC UUC UAA
175	H50D(+07-18)	GGG AUC CAG UAU ACU UAC AGG CUC C
176	H51A(-01+25)	ACC AGA GUA ACA GUC UGA GUA GGA GC
177	H51D(+16-07)	CUC AUA CCU DCU GCU UGA UGA UC
178	H51A(+111 +134)	UUC UGU CCA AGC CCG GUU GAA AUC
179	H51A(+61+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA GUU UGG
190	H51A(+66+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA G
181	H51A(+66+95)	CUC CAA CAU CAA GGA AGA UGG CAU UUC UAG
182	H51D(+08-17)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC U
183	H51A/D(+08-17) & (-15+)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC UAG GAG CUA AAA
184	H51A(+175+195)	CAC CCA CCA UCA CCC UCU GUG
185	H51A(+199+220)	AUC AUC UCG UUG AUA UCC UCA A
186	H52A(-07+14)	UCC UGC AUU GUU GCC UGU AAG
187	H52A(+12+41)	UCC AAC UGG GGA CGC CUC UGU UCC AAA
188	H52A(+17+37)	ACU GGG GAC GCC UCU GUU CCA
	H52A(+93+112)	CCG UAA UGA UUG UUC UAG CC
	H52D(+05-15)	UGU UAA AAA ACU UAC UUC GA
	H53A(+45+69)	CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU G
	H53A(+39+62)	CUG UUG CCU CCG GUU CUG AAG GUG
	H53A(+39+69)	CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU GAA
194	H53D(+14-07)	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C
195	H53A(+23+47)	CUG AAG GUG VOL DOG VAL DUL NOE E

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that

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have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5' - 3')
196	H53A(+150+176)	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA UGA CUC
197	H53D(+20-05)	CUA ACC UUG GUU UCU GUG AUU UUC U
198	H53D(+09-18)	GGU AUC UUU GAU ACU AAC CUU GGU UUC
199	H53A(-12+10)	AUU CUU UCA ACU AGA AUA AAA G
200	H53A(-07418)	GAU UCU GAA UUC UUU CAA CUA GAA U
201	H53A(+07+26)	AUC CCA CUG AUU CUG AAU UC
202	H53A(+124+145)	UNG GCU CUG GCC UGU CCU AAG A
203	H46A(+86+115)	CUC UUU UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU ACU
204	H46A(+107+137)	CAA GCU UUU CUU UUA GUU GCU GCU CUU
205	H46A(-10+20)	UAU UCU UUU GUU CUU CUA GCC UGG AGA AAG
206	H46A(+50+77)	CUG CUU CCU CCA ACC AUA AAA CAA AUU C
207	H45A(-06+20)	CCA AUG CCA UCC UGG AGU UCC UGU AA
208	H45A(+91 +110)	UCC UGU AGA AUA CUG GCA UC
209	H45A(+125+151)	UGC AGA CCU CCU GCC ACC GCA GAU UCA
210	H45D(+16 -04)	CUA CCU CUU UUU UCU GUC UG
211	H45A(+71+90)	UGU UUU UGA GGA UUG CUG AA

TABLE 1B

Description of a cocktail of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEC	all the party of t	NUC	LEOT	IDE :	SEQU	ENCE	(5'	-3')	
81	H20A(+44+71)	CUG	GCA	GAA	UUC	GAU	CCA	CCG	GCU
82	H20A(+147+168)	GUU	C						
		CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	ncn	GCU	C
80	H19A(+35+65)	GCC	UGA	GCU	GAU	CUG	CUG	GCA	ucu
81	H20A(+44+71)	UGC							
82	H20A(+147+168)	AGU	U						
		CUG	GCA	GAA	UUC	GAU	CCA	CCG	GCU
		GUU							
		CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	ncn	GCU	C

TABLE 1B-continued

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Description of a cocktail of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

	ID	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
50	194	H53D(+14-07)	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA
	195	H53A(+23+47)	CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC
	196	H53A(+150+175)	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA UGA

TABLE 1C

Description of a "weasel" of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEQ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')	
81	H20A(+44+71)-	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C-	_
82	H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C	

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TABLE 1C-continued

Description of a "weasel" of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense cligonuclectides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEÇ	SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
80	H19A(+35+65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
88	H20A(+44+63)-	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC-
79	H20A(+149+168)	CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
80	H19A(+35+65) -	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
88	H20A(+44+63)	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC-
80	H19A(+35+65) -	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC
79	H20A(+149+168)	-CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
139	H34A(+46+70)-	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G-
139	H34A(+94+120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG
	H31D(+03-22)- UU-	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G-
44	H35A(+24+43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU
	H53A(+23+47) - AA-	CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C-
96	H53A(+150+175) -	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA UGA CUC-
	CONTROL OF THE PARK	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA
=	Aimed at exons	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU CAA CUG
12	19/20/20	GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU CAA
		GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUC GCA UCU
		UGC AGU

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

General

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variation and modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps, features, compositions and compounds referred to or indicated in the specification, individually or collectively and 45 any and all combinations or any two or more of the steps or features.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein, which are intended for the purpose of exemplification only. Functionally 50 equivalent products, compositions and methods are clearly within the scope of the invention as described herein.

Sequence identity numbers (SEQ ID NO:) containing nucleotide and amino acid sequence information included in this specification are collected at the end of the description and have been prepared using the programme Patentln Version 3.0. Each nucleotide or amino acid sequence is identified in the sequence listing by the numeric indicator <210> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <210>1, <210>2, etc.). The length, type of sequence and source organism for each nucleotide or amino acid sequence are indicated by information provided in the numeric indicator fields <211>, <212> and <213>, respectively. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences referred to in the specification are defined by the information provided in numeric indicator 65 field <400> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <400>1, <400>2, etc.).

An antisense molecules nomenclature system was proposed and published to distinguish between the different antisense molecules (see Mann et al., (2002) *J Gen Med* 4, 644-654). This nomenclature became especially relevant when testing several slightly different antisense molecules, all directed at the same target region, as shown below:

H#A/D(x:y).

The first letter designates the species (e.g. H: human, M: murine, C: canine) "#" designates target dystrophin exon number.

"A/D" indicates acceptor or donor splice site at the beginning and end of the exon, respectively.

(x y) represents the annealing coordinates where "-" or "+" indicate intronic or exonic sequences respectively. As an example, A(-6+18) would indicate the last 6 bases of the intron preceding the target exon and the first 18 bases of the target exon. The closest splice site would be the acceptor so these coordinates would be preceded with an "A". Describing annealing coordinates at the donor splice site could be D(+2-18) where the last 2 exonic bases and the first 18 intronic bases correspond to the annealing site of the antisense molecule. Entirely exonic annealing coordinates that would be represented by A(+65+85), that is the site between the 65th and 85th nucleotide from the start of that exon.

The entire disclosures of all publications (including patents, patent applications, journal articles, laboratory manuals, books, or other documents) cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference. No admission is made that any of the references constitute prior art or are part of the common general knowledge of those working in the field to which this invention relates.

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As used necessarily herein the term "derived" and "derived from" shall be taken to indicate that a specific integer may be obtained from a particular source albeit not directly from that source.

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires o#herwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

Other definitions for selected terms used herein may be 10 found within the detailed description of the invention and apply throughout. Unless otherwise defined, all other scientific and technical terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention belongs.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

When antisense molecule(s) are targeted to nucleotide sequences involved in splicing in exons within pre-mRNA sequences, normal splicing of the exon may be inhibited causing the splicing machinery to by-pass the entire mutated 20 exon from the mature mRNA. The concept of antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping is shown in FIG. 2. In many genes, deletion of an entire exon would lead to the production of a non-functional protein through the loss of important functional domains or the disruption of the read- 25 ing frame. In some proteins, however, it is possible to shorten the protein by deleting one or more exons, without disrupting the reading frame, from within the protein without seriously altering the biological activity of the protein. Typically, such proteins have a structural role and or possess 30 functional domains at their ends. The present invention describes antisense molecules capable of binding to specified dystrophin pre-mRNA targets and re-directing processing of that gene.

Antisense Molecules

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping. To induce exon skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group 40 of compounds shown in Table 1A. There is also provided a combination or "cocktail" of two or more antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping. To induce exon skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules in a 45 "cocktail" are preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1B. Alternatively, exon skipping may be induced by antisense oligonucleotides joined together "weasels" preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1C.

Designing antisense molecules to completely mask consensus splice sites may not necessarily generate any skipping of the targeted exon. Furthermore, the inventors have discovered that size or length of the antisense oligonucleotide itself is not always a primary factor when designing antisense molecules. With some targets such as exon 19, antisense oligonucleotides as short as 12 bases were able to induce exon skipping, albeit not as efficiently as longer (20-31 bases) oligonucleotides. In some other targets, such as murine dystrophin exon 23, antisense oligonucleotides only 17 residues long were able to induce more efficient skipping than another overlapping compound of 25 nucleotides.

The inventors have also discovered that there does not appear to be any standard motif that can be blocked or masked by antisense molecules to redirect splicing. In some exons, such as mouse dystrophin exon 23, the donor splice

site was the most amenable to target to re-direct skipping of that exon. It should be noted that designing and testing a series of exon 23 specific antisense molecules to anneal to overlapping regions of the donor splice site showed considerable variation in the efficacy of induced exon skipping. As

erable variation in the efficacy of induced exon skipping. As reported in Mann et al., (2002) there was a significant variation in the efficiency of bypassing the nonsense mutation depending upon antisense oligonucleotide annealing ("Improved antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping in the mdx mouse model of muscular dystrophy". *J Gen Med* 4: 644-654). Targeting the acceptor site of exon 23 or

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several internal domains was not found to induce any consistent exon 23 skipping.

In other exons targeted for removal, masking the donor 15 splice site did not induce any exon skipping. However, by directing antisense molecules to the acceptor splice site (human exon 8 as discussed below), strong and sustained exon skipping was induced. It should be noted that removal of human exon 8 was tightly linked with the co-removal of exon 9. There is no strong sequence homology between the exon 8 antisense oligonucleotides and corresponding regions of exon 9 so it does not appear to be a matter of cross reaction. Rather the splicing of these two exons is inextricably linked. This is not an isolated instance as the same effect is observed in canine cells where targeting exon 8 for removal also resulted in the skipping of exon 9. Targeting exon 23 for removal in the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA also results in the frequent removal of exon 22 as well. This effect occurs in a dose dependent manner and also indicates close coordinated processing of 2 adjacent exons.

In other targeted exons, antisense molecules directed at the donor or acceptor splice sites did not induce exon skipping while annealing antisense molecules to intra-exonic regions (i.e. exon splicing enhancers within human dystrophin exon 6) was most efficient at inducing exon skipping. Some exons, both mouse and human exon 19 for example, are readily skipped by targeting antisense molecules to a variety of motifs. That is, targeted exon skipping is induced after using antisense oligonucleotides to mask donor and acceptor splice sites or exon splicing enhancers.

To identify and select antisense oligonucleotides suitable for use in the modulation of exon skipping, a nucleic acid sequence whose function is to be modulated must first be identified. This may be, for example, a gene (or mRNA transcribed form the gene) whose expression is associated with a particular disorder or disease state, or a nucleic acid molecule from an infectious agent. Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites, or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites for modulation of mRNA splicing.

Preferably, the present invention aims to provide antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping. Duchenne muscular dystrophy arises from mutations that preclude the synthesis of a functional dystrophin gene product. These Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene defects are typically nonsense mutations or genomic rearrangements such as deletions, duplications or microdeletions or insertions that disrupt the reading frame. As the human dystrophin gene is a large and complex gene with the 79 exons being spliced together to generate a mature mRNA with an open reading frame of approximately 11,000 bases, there are many positions where these mutations can occur. Consequently, a comprehensive antisense oligonucleotide

based therapy to address many of the different diseasecausing mutations in the dystrophin gene will require that many exons can be targeted for removal during the splicing process.

Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites for modulation of mRNA splicing.

The oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA are complementary to each other when a sufficient number of corresponding positions in each molecule are occupied by nucleotides which can hydrogen bond with each other. Thus, "specifically hybridisable" and "complementary" are terms 15 which are used to indicate a sufficient degree of complementarity or precise pairing such that stable and specific binding occurs between the oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA target. It is understood in the art that the sequence of an antisense molecule need not be 100% complementary to 20 that of its target sequence to be specifically hybridisable. An antisense molecule is specifically hybridisable when binding of the compound to the target DNA or RNA molecule interferes with the normal function of the target DNA or RNA to cause a loss of utility, and there is a sufficient degree 25 of complementarity to avoid non-specific binding of the antisense compound to non-target sequences under conditions in which specific binding is desired, i.e., under physiological conditions in the case of in vivo assays or therapeutic treatment, and in the case of in vitro assays, under 30 conditions in which the assays are performed.

While the above method may be used to select antisense molecules capable of deleting any exon from within a protein that is capable of being shortened without affecting its biological function, the exon deletion should not lead to 35 a reading frame shift in the shortened transcribed mRNA. Thus, if in a linear sequence of three exons the end of the first exon encodes two of three nucleotides in a codon and the next exon is deleted then the third exon in the linear sequence must start with a single nucleotide that is capable 40 of completing the nucleotide triplet for a codon. If the third exon does not commence with a single nucleotide there will be a reading frame shift that would lead to the generation of truncated or a non-functional protein.

It wilt be appreciated that the codon arrangements at the 45 end of exons in structural proteins may not always break at the end of a codon, consequently there may be a need to delete more than one exon from the pre-mRNA to ensure in-frame reading of the mRNA. In such circumstances, a plurality of antisense oligonucleotides may need to be 50 selected by the method of the invention wherein each is directed to a different region responsible for inducing splicing in the exons that are to be deleted.

The length of an antisense molecule may vary so long as it is capable of binding selectively to the intended location 55 within the pre-mRNA molecule. The length of such sequences can be determined in accordance with selection procedures described herein. Generally, the antisense molecule will be from about 10 nucleotides in length up to about 50 nucleotides in length. It will be appreciated however that 60 any length of nucleotides within this range may be used in the method. Preferably, the length of the antisense molecule is between 17 to 30 nucleotides in length.

In order to determine which exons can be connected in a dystrophin gene, reference should be made to an exon 65 boundary map. Connection of one exon with another is based on the exons possessing the same number at the 3'

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border as is present at the 5' border of the exon to which it is being connected. Therefore, if exon 7 were deleted, exon 6 must connect to either exons 12 or 18 to maintain the reading frame. Thus, antisense oligonucleotides would need to be selected which redirected splicing for exons 7 to 11 in the first instance or exons 7 to 17 in the second instance. Another and somewhat simpler approach to restore the reading frame around an exon 7 deletion would be to remove the two flanking exons. Induction of exons 6 and 8 skipping should result in an in-frame transcript with the splicing of exons 5 to 9. In practise however, targeting exon 8 for removal from the pre-mRNA results in the co-removal of exon 9 so the resultant transcript would have exon 5 joined to exon 10. The inclusion or exclusion of exon 9 does not alter the reading frame. Once the antisense molecules to be tested have been identified, they are prepared according to standard techniques known in the art. The most common method for producing antisense molecules is the methylation of the 2' hydroxyribose position and the incorporation of a phosphorothioate backbone produces molecules that superficially resemble RNA but that are much more resistant to nuclease degradation.

To avoid degradation of pre-mRNA during duplex formation with the antisense molecules, the antisense molecules used in the method may be adapted to minimise or prevent cleavage by endogenous RNase H. This property is highly preferred as the treatment of the RNA with the unmethylated oligonucleotides either intracellularly or in crude extracts that contain RNase H leads to degradation of the pre-mRNA: antisense oligonucleotide duplexes. Any form of modified antisense molecules that is capable of bypassing or not inducing such degradation may be used in the present method. An example of antisense molecules which when duplexed with RNA are not cleaved by cellular RNase H is 2'-O-methyl derivatives, 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotides are very stable in a cellular environment and in animal tissues, and their duplexes with RNA have higher Tm values than their ribo- or deoxyribo-counterparts.

Antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H can be made in accordance with known techniques (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,149,797). Such antisense molecules, which may be deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide sequences, simply contain any structural modification which sterically hinders or prevents binding of RNase H to a duplex molecule containing the oligonucleotide as one member thereof, which structural modification does not substantially hinder or disrupt duplex formation. Because the portions of the oligonucleotide involved in duplex formation are substantially different from those portions involved in RNase H binding thereto, numerous antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H are available. For example, such antisense molecules may be oligonucleotides wherein at least one, or all, of the inter-nucleotide bridging phosphate residues are modified phosphates, such as methyl phosphonates, methyl phosphorothioates, phosphoromorpholidates, phosphoropiperazidates and phosphoramidates. For example, every other one of the internucleotide bridging phosphate residues may be modified as described. In another non-limiting example, such antisense molecules are molecules wherein at least one, or all, of the nucleotides contain a 2' lower alkyl moiety (e.g., C1-C4, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, such as methyl, ethyl, ethenyl, propyl, 1-propenyl. 2-propenyl, and isopropyl). For example, every other one of the nucleotides may be modified as described.

While antisense oligonucleotides are a preferred form of the antisense molecules, the present invention comprehends

other oligomeric antisense molecules, including but not limited to oligonucleotide mimetics such as are described

Specific examples of preferred antisense compounds useful in this invention include oligonucleotides containing 5 modified backbones or non-natural inter-nucleoside linkages. As defined in this specification, oligonucleotides having modified backbones include those that retain a phosphorus atom in the backbone and those that do not have a phosphorus atom in the backbone. For the purposes of this 10 specification, and as sometimes referenced in the art, modified oligonucleotides that do not have a phosphorus atom in their inter-nucleoside backbone can also be considered to be oligonucleosides.

In other preferred oligonucleotide mimetics, both the 15 sugar and the inter-nucleoside linkage, i.e., the backbone, of the nucleotide units are replaced with novel groups. The base units are maintained for hybridization with an appropriate nucleic acid target compound. One such oligomeric compound, an oligonucleotide mimetic that has been shown 20 to have excellent hybridization properties, is referred to as a peptide nucleic acid (PNA). In PNA compounds, the sugarbackbone of an oligonucleotide is replaced with an amide containing backbone, in particular an aminoethylglycine backbone. The nucleo-bases are retained and are bound 25 directly or indirectly to aza nitrogen atoms of the amide portion of the backbone.

Modified oligonucleotides may also contain one or more substituted sugar moieties. Oligonucleotides may also include nucleobase (often referred to in the art simply as 30 "base") modifications or substitutions. Certain nucleo-bases are particularly useful for increasing the binding affinity of the oligomeric compounds of the invention. These include 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2, N-6 and O-6 substituted purines, including 2-aminopropylad- 35 enine, 5-propynyluracil and 5-propynylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine substitutions have been shown to increase nucleic acid duplex stability by 0.6-1.2° C. and are presently preferred base substitutions, even more particularly when combined with 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar modifications.

Another modification of the oligonucleotides of the invention involves chemically linking to the oligonucleotide one or more moieties or conjugates that enhance the activity, cellular distribution or cellular uptake of the oligonucleotide. Such moieties include but are not limited to lipid 45 compound is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can moieties such as a cholesterol moiety, cholic acid. a thioether, e.g., hexyl-S-tritylthiol, a thiocholesterol, an aliphatic chain, e.g., dodecandiol or undecyl residues, a phospholipid, e.g., di-hexadecyl-rac-glycerol or triethylammonium 1,2-di-O-hexadecyl-rac-glycero-3-H-phosphonate, a polyamine or 50 a polyethylene glycol chain, or adamantane acetic acid, a palmityl moiety, or an octadecylamine or hexylamino-carbonyl-oxycholesterol moiety.

It is not necessary far all positions in a given compound to be uniformly modified, and in fact more than one of the 55 aforementioned modifications may be incorporated in a single compound or even at a single nucleoside within an oligonucleotide. The present invention also includes antisense compounds that are chimeric compounds. "Chimeric" antisense compounds or "chimeras," in the context of this 60 invention, are antisense molecules, particularly oligonucleotides, which contain two or more chemically distinct regions, each made up of at least one monomer unit, i.e., a nucleotide in the case of an oligonucleotide compound. These oligonucleotides typically contain at least one region 65 wherein the oligonucleotide is modified so as to confer upon the increased resistance to nuclease degradation, increased

28 cellular uptake, and an additional region for increased binding affinity for the target nucleic acid.

Methods of Manufacturing Antisense Molecules

The antisense molecules used in accordance with this invention may be conveniently and routinely made through the well-known technique of solid phase synthesis. Equipment for such synthesis is sold by several vendors including, for example, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, Calif.). One method for synthesising oligonucleotides on a modified solid support is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,458,066.

Any other means for such synthesis known in the art may additionally or alternatively be employed. It is well known to use similar techniques to prepare oligonucleotides such as the phosphorothioates ~ and alkylated derivatives. In one such automated embodiment, diethyl-phosphoramidites are used as starting materials and may be synthesized as described by Beaucage, et al., (1981) Tetrahedron Letters, 22:1859-1862.

The antisense molecules of the invention are synthesised in vitro and do not include antisense compositions of biological origin, or genetic vector constructs designed to direct the in vivo synthesis of antisense molecules. The molecules of the invention may also be mixed, encapsulated, conjugated or otherwise associated with other molecules, molecule structures or mixtures of compounds, as for example, liposomes, receptor targeted molecules, oral, rectal, topical or other formulations, for assisting in uptake, distribution and/or absorption.

Therapeutic Agents

The present invention also can be used as a prophylactic or therapeutic, which may be utilised for the purpose of treatment of a genetic disease.

Accordingly, in one embodiment the present invention provides antisense molecules that bind to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping described herein in a therapeutically effective amount admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

The phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable" refers to molecular entities and compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce an allergic or similarly untoward reaction, such as gastric upset and the like, when administered to a patient. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, adjuvant, excipient, or vehicle with which the be sterile liquids, such as water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water or saline solutions and aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions are preferably employed as carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in Martin, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., (1990).

In a more specific form of the invention there are provided pharmaceutical compositions comprising therapeutically effective amounts of an antisense molecule together with pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers. Such compositions include diluents of various buffer content (e.g., Tris-HCl, acetate, phosphate), pH and ionic strength and additives such as detergents and solubilizing agents (e.g., Tween 80, Polysorbate 80), anti-oxidants (e.g., ascorbic acid, sodium metabisulfite), preservatives (e.g., Thimersol, benzyl alcohol) and bulking substances (e.g., lactose, mannitol). The material may be incorporated into particulate preparations of polymeric compounds such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, etc. or into liposomes. Hylauronic

acid may also be used. Such compositions may influence the physical state, stability, rate of in vivo release, and rate of in vivo clearance of the present proteins and derivatives. See, e.g., Martin, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa. 18042) pages 5 1435-1712 that are herein incorporated by reference. The compositions may be prepared in liquid form, or may be in dried powder, such as lyophilised form.

It will be appreciated that pharmaceutical compositions provided according to the present invention may be administered by any means known in the art. Preferably, the pharmaceutical compositions for administration are administered by injection, orally, or by the pulmonary, or nasal route. The antisense molecules are more preferably delivered by intravenous, intra-arterial, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, or subcutaneous routes of administration.

Antisense Molecule Based Therapy

Also addressed by the present invention is the use of antisense molecules of the present invention, for manufacture of a medicament for modulation of a genetic disease. 20

The delivery of a therapeutically useful amount of antisense molecules may be achieved by methods previously published. For example, intracellular delivery of the antisense molecule may be via a composition comprising an admixture of the antisense molecule and an effective amount 25 of a block copolymer. An example of this method is described in US patent application US 20040248833.

Other methods of delivery of antisense molecules to the nucleus are described in Mann C J et al., (2001) ["Antisenseinduced exon skipping and the synthesis of dystrophin in the 30 mdx mouse". Proc., Natl. Acad. Science, 98(1) 42-47J and in Gebski et al., (2003). Human Molecular Genetics, 12(15): 1801-1811

A method for introducing a nucleic acid molecule into a cell by way of an expression vector either as naked DNA or 35 complexed to lipid carriers, is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,806,084.

It may be desirable to deliver the antisense molecule in a colloidal dispersion system. Colloidal dispersion systems include macromolecule complexes, nanocapsules, micro- 40 spheres, beads, and lipid-based systems including oil-inwater emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes or liposome formulations.

Liposomes are artificial membrane vesicles which are useful as delivery vehicles in vitro and in vivo. These 45 formulations may have net cationic, anionic or neutral charge characteristics and are useful characteristics with in vitro, in vivo and ex vivo delivery methods. It has been shown that large unilamellar vesicles (LUV), which range in size from 0.2-4.0.PHLm can encapsulate a substantial per- 50 centage of an aqueous buffer containing large macromolecules. RNA, and DNA can be encapsulated within the aqueous interior and be delivered to cells in a biologically active form (Fraley, et al., Trends Biochem. Sci., 6:77, 1981).

In order for a liposome to be an efficient gene transfer 55 vehicle, the following characteristics should be present: (1) encapsulation of the antisense molecule of interest at high efficiency while not compromising their biological activity; (2) preferential and substantial binding to a target cell in comparison to non-target cells; (3) delivery of the aqueous 60 contents of the vesicle to the target cell cytoplasm at high efficiency; and (4) accurate and effective expression of genetic information (Mannino, et al., Biotechniques, 6:682,

The composition of the liposome is usually a combination 65 of phospholipids, particularly high-phase-transition-temperature phospholipids, usually in combination with steroids, especially cholesterol. Other phospholipids or other lipids may also be used. The physical characteristics of liposomes depend on pH, ionic strength, and the presence of

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divalent cations.

Alternatively, the antisense construct may be combined with other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents to produce a pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers and diluents include isotonic saline solutions, for example phosphate-buffered saline. The composition may be formulated for parenteral, intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, intraocular, oral or transdermal administration.

The routes of administration described are intended only as a guide since a skilled practitioner will be able to determine readily the optimum route of administration and any dosage for any particular animal and condition. Multiple approaches for introducing functional new genetic material into cells, both in vitro and in vivo have been attempted

(Friedmann (1989) Science, 244:1275-1280).

These approaches include integration of the gene to be expressed into modified retroviruses (Friedmann (1989) supra; Rosenberg (1991) Cancer Research 51(18), suppl.: 5074S-5079S); integration into non-retrovirus vectors (Rosenfeld, et al. (1992) Cell, 68:143-155; Rosenfeld, et al. (1991) Science, 252:431-434); or delivery of a transgene linked to a heterologous promoter-enhancer element via liposomes (Friedmann (1989), supra; Brigham, et al. (1989) Am. J. Med. Sci., 298:278-281; Nabel, et al. (1990) Science, 249:1285-1288; Hazinski, et al. (1991) Am. J. Resp. Cell Molec. Biol., 4:206-209; and Wang and Huang (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA), 84:7851-7855); coupled to ligandspecific, cation-based transport systems (Wu and Wu (1988) J. Biol. Chem., 263:14621-14624) or the use of naked DNA. expression vectors (Nabel et al. (1990), supra); Wolff et al. (1990) Science, 247:1465-1468). Direct injection of transgenes into tissue produces only localized expression (Rosenfeld (1992) supra); Rosenfeld et al. (1991) supra; Brigham et al. (1989) supra; Nabel (1990) supra; and Hazinski et al. (1991) supra). The Brigham et al. group (Am. J. Med. Sci. (1989) 298:278-281 and Clinical Research (1991) 39 (abstract)) have reported in vivo transfection only of lungs of mice following either intravenous or intratracheal administration of a DNA liposome complex. An example of a review article of human gene therapy procedures is: Anderson, Science (1992) 256:808-813.

The antisense molecules of the invention encompass any pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, or salts of such esters, or any other compound which, upon administration to an animal including a human, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) the biologically active metabolite or residue thereof. Accordingly, for example, the disclosure is also drawn to prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such pro-drugs, and other bioequivalents.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention: i.e., salts that retain the desired biological activity of the parent compound and do not impart

undesired toxicological effects thereto.

For oligonucleotides, preferred examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts include but are not limited to (a) salts formed with cations such as sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, polyamines such as spermine and spermidine, etc.; (b) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids, for example hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid and the like; (c) salts formed with organic acids such as, for example, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, malefic

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acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, citric acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid, benzoic acid, tannic acid, palmitic acid, alginic acid, polygiutamic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acid, polygalacturonic acid, and the like; and (d) salts formed from elemental anions such as chlorine, bromine, and iodine. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered in a number of ways depending upon whether local or systemic treatment is desired and upon the area to be treated. Administration may to be topical (including ophthalmic and to mucous membranes including rectal delivery), pulmonary, e.g., by inhalation or insufflation of powders or aerosols, (including by nebulizer, intratracheal, intranasal, epidermal and transdermal), oral or parenteral. Parenteral administration includes intravenous, 15 intra-arterial, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal or intramuscular injection or infusion: or intracranial, e.g., intrathecal or intraventricular, administration. Oligonucleotides with at least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification are believed to be particularly useful for oral administration.

The pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention, which may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form, may be prepared according to conventional techniques well known in the pharmaceutical industry. Such techniques include the step of bringing into association the active 25 ingredients with the pharmaceutical carrier(s) or excipient(s). In general the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

Kits of the Invention

The invention also provides kits for treatment of a patient with a genetic disease which kit comprises at least an antisense molecule, packaged in a suitable container, together with instructions for its use.

In a preferred embodiment, the kits will contain at least one antisense molecule as shown in Table 1A, or a cocktail of antisense molecules as shown in Table 1B or a "weasel" compound as shown in Table 1C. The kits may also contain peripheral reagents such as buffers, stabilizers, etc.

Those of ordinary skill in the field should appreciate that applications of the above method has wide application for identifying antisense molecules suitable for use in the treatment of many other diseases.

EXAMPLES

The following Examples serve to more fully describe the manner of using the above-described invention, as well as to set forth the best modes contemplated for carrying out 50 various aspects of the invention. It is understood that these Examples in no way serve to limit the true scope of this invention, but rather are presented for illustrative purposes. The references cited herein are expressly incorporated by reference

Methods of molecular cloning, immunology and protein chemistry, which are not explicitly described in the following examples, are reported in the literature and are known by those skilled in the art. General texts that described conventional molecular biology, microbiology, and recombinant 60 DNA techniques within the skill of the art, included, for example; Sambrook et al, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989); Glover ed., DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach, Volumes I and II, MRL 65 Press, Ltd., Oxford, U. K. (1985); and Ausubel, F., Brent, R., Kingston, R. E., Moore, D. D., Seidman, J. G., Smith, J. A.,

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Determining Induced Exon Skipping in Human Muscle Cells

Attempts by the inventors to develop a rational approach in antisense molecules design were not completely successful as there did not appear to be a consistent trend that could be applied to all exons. As such, the identification of the most effective and therefore most therapeutic antisense molecules compounds has been the result of empirical studies.

These empirical studies involved the use of computer programs to identify motifs potentially involved in the splicing process. Other computer programs were also used to identify regions of the pre-mRNA which may not have had extensive secondary structure and therefore potential sites for annealing of antisense molecules. Neither of these approaches proved completely reliable in designing antisense oligonucleotides for reliable and efficient induction of exon skipping.

Annealing sites on the human dystrophin pre-mRNA were selected for examination, initially based upon known or predicted motifs or regions involved in splicing. 20Me antisense oligonucleotides were designed to be complementary to the target sequences under investigation and were synthesised on an Expedite 8909 Nucleic Acid Synthesiser. Upon completion of synthesis, the oligonucleotides were cleaved from the support column and de-protected in ammonium hydroxide before being desalted. The quality of the oligonucleotide synthesis was monitored by the intensity of the trityl signals upon each deprotection step during the synthesis as detected in the synthesis log. The concentration of the antisense oligonucleotide was estimated by measuring the absorbance of a diluted aliquot at 260 nm.

Specified amounts of the antisense molecules were then tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in an in vitro 40 assay, as described below.

Briefly, normal primary myoblast cultures were prepared from human muscle biopsies obtained after informed consent. The cells were propagated and allowed to differentiate into myotubes using standard culturing techniques. The cells were then transfected with the antisense oligonucleotides by delivery of the oligonucleotides to the dells as cationic lipoplexes, mixtures of antisense molecules or cationic liposome preparations.

The cells were then allowed to grow for another 24 hours, after which total RNA was extracted and molecular analysis commenced. Reverse transcriptase amplification (RT-PCR) was undertaken to study the targeted regions of the dystrophin pre-mRNA or induced exonic re-arrangements.

For example, in the testing of an antisense molecule for inducing exon 19 skipping the RT-PCR test scanned several exons to detect involvement of any adjacent exons. For example, when inducing skipping of exon 19, RT-PCR was carried out with primers that amplified across exons 17 and 21. Amplifications of even larger products in this area (i.e. exons 13-26) were also carried out to ensure that there was minimal amplification bias for the shorter induced skipped transcript. Shorter or exon skipped products tend to be amplified more efficiently and may bias the estimated of the normal and induced transcript.

The sizes of the amplification reaction products were estimated on an agarose gel and compared against appropriate size standards. The final confirmation of identity of

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these products was carried out by direct DNA sequencing to establish that the correct or expected exon junctions have been maintained.

Once efficient exon skipping had been induced with one antisense molecule, subsequent overlapping antisense molecules may be synthesized and then evaluated in the assay as described above. Our definition of an efficient antisense molecule is one that induces strong and sustained exon skipping at transfection concentrations in the order of 300 nM or less.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 8

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 15 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 3 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. H8A(-06+18)

shown that targeting of the antisense molecules to motifs involved in the splicing process plays a crucial role in the overall efficacy of that compound.

Efficacy refers to the ability to induce consistent skipping of a target exon. However, sometimes skipping of the target exons is consistently associated with a flanking exon. That is, we have found that the splicing of some exons is tightly linked. For example, in targeting exon 23 in the mouse model of muscular dystrophy with antisense molecules directed at the donor site of that exon, dystrophin transcripts missing exons 22 and 23 are frequently detected. As another example, when using an antisense molecule directed to exon 8 of the human dystrophin gene, all induced transcripts are missing both exons 8 and 9. Dystrophin transcripts missing only exon 8 are not observed.

Table 2 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 8 (and 9) skipping.

TABLE 2

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
1	H8A(-06+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA	Very strong to 20 nM
2	H8A (-03+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG	Very strong skipping to 40 nM
3	H8A (-07+18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA G	Strong skipping to 40 nM
4	H8A(-06+14)	5'-GGU GGU AUC AAC AUC UGU AA	Skipping to 300 nM
5	H8A (-10+10)	5'-GUA UCA ACA UCU GUA AGC AC	Patchy/weak skipping to 100 nm

[SEQ ID NO:1], which anneals to the last 6 bases of intron 7 and the first 18 bases of exon 8, induces substantial exon 8 and 9 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. The shorter antisense molecule, H8A(-06+14) [SEQ ID NO: 4] was only able to induce exon 8 and 9 skipping at 300 nM, a concentration some 15 fold higher than H8A(-06+18), which is the preferred antisense molecule.

This data shows that some particular antisense molecules induce efficient exon skipping while another antisense molecule, which targets a near-by or overlapping region, can be much less efficient. Titration studies show one compound is able to induce targeted exon skipping at 20 nM while the less efficient antisense molecules only induced exon skipping at concentrations of 300 nM and above. Therefore, we have

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 7

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 4 shows the preferred antisense molecule, H7A(+ 45+67) [SEQ ID NO: 6], and another antisense molecule, H7A(+2+26) [SEQ ID NO: 7], inducing exon 7 skipping. Nested amplification products span exons 3 to 9. Additional products above the induced transcript missing exon 7 arise from amplification from carry-over outer primers from the RT-PCR as well as heteroduplex formation.

Table 3 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 7 skipping.

TABLE 3

	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
6	H7A(+45+67)	5' - UGC AUG UUC CAG UCG UUG UGU GG	Strong skipping to 20 nM
7	H7A(+02+26)	5' - CAC UAU UCC AGU CAA AUA GGU CUG G	Weak skipping at

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TABLE 3-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce	
8	H7D(+15-10)	5' - Allit mac ora	skipping	
		5' -AUU DAC CAA CCU DCA GGA UCG AGU A	Weak skipping to	
9	H7A(-18+03)	5' - GGC CUA AAA CAC AUA CAC AUA	Weak skipping to	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 6

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 6 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 5 shows an example of two non-preferred antisense molecules inducing very low levels of exon 6 skipping in cultured human cells. Targeting this exon for specific removal was first undertaken during a study of the canine model using the oligonucleotides as listed in Table 4, below. Some of the human specific oligonucleotides were also evaluated, as shown in FIG. 5. In this example, both antisense molecules target the donor splice site and only induced low levels of exon 6 skipping. Both H6D(+4-21) [SEQ ID NO: 17] and H6D(+18-4) [SEQ ID NO: 18] would be regarded as non-preferred antisense molecules.

One antisense oligonucleotide that induced very efficient exon 6 skipping in the canine model, C6A(+69+91) [SEQ ID NO: 14], would anneal perfectly to the corresponding region in human dystrophin exon 6. This compound was evaluated, found to be highly efficient at inducing skipping of that target exon, as shown in FIG. 6 and is regarded as the preferred compound for induced exon 6 skipping. Table 4 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 6 skipping.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 4

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 4 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 7 shows an example of a preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 skipping in cultured human cells. In this example, one preferred antisense compound, H4A(+13+32) [SEQ ID NO:19], which targeted a presumed exonic splicing enhancer induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM while other non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides failed to induce even low levels of exon 4 skipping. Another preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 was H4A(+111+40) [SEQ ID NO:22], which induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM.

Table 5 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for inducing exon 4 skipping.

TABLE 4

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligo name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
10	C6A(-10+10)	5' CAU UUU UGA CCU ACA UGU GG	No skipping
11	C6A(-14+06)	5' UUU GAC CUA CAU GUG GAA AG	No skipping
12	C6A(-14+12)	5' UAC AUU UUU GAC CUA CAU GUG GAA AG	No skipping
13	C6A(~13+09)	5' AUU UUU GAC CUA CAU GGG AAA G	No skipping
14	CH6A(+69+91)	5' UAC GAG UUG AUU GUC GGA CCC AG	Strong skipping to 20 nM
15	C6D(+12-13)	5' GUG GUC UCC UUA CCU AUG ACU GUG G	Weak skipping at 300 nM
16	C6D(+06-11)	5' GGU CUC CUU ACC UAU GA	No akipping
17	H6D(+04-21)	5' UGU CUC AGU AAU CUU CUU ACC UAU	Weak skipping to 50 nM
18	H6D(+18-04)	5' UCU UAC CUA UGA CUA UGG AUG AGA	Very weak skipping to 300 nM

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ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Se	quen	ce							Ability to induce
19	H4A(+13+32)	51	GCA	UGA	Acu	CITI	-	7,0.1			skipping
					ACO	COD	GUG	GAU	CC		Skipping to
22	H4A(+11+40)	AU	ugu c cut	UCA	GGG	CAU	GAA	cuc	UUG	UGG	Skipping to
20	H4D(+04-16)	51	CCA	GGG	UAC	UAC	UUA	CAU	UA		No skipping
21	H4D(-24-44)	51	AUC	GUG	UGU	CAC	AGC	AHO			No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 3

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 3 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H3A(+30+60) [SEQ ID NO:23] induced substantial exon 3 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM to 600 nM. The antisense molecule, H3A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO: 24] induced exon skipping at 300 nM.

Table 6 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 3 skipping.

TABLE 6

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
23	H3A(+30+60)	UAG GAG GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU G	Moderate skipping to 20 to 600 nM
24	H3A(+35+65)	AGG UCU AGG AGG CGC CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG U	Working to 300 nM
25	H3A(+30+54)	GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU G	Moderate 100-600 nM
26	H3D(+46-21)	CUU CGA GGA GGU CUA GGA GGC GCC UC	No skipping
27	H3A(+30+50)	CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG UCA CUG	Moderate 20- 600 nM
28	H3D(+19-03)	UAC CAG UUU UUG CCC UGU CAG G	No skipping
29	H3A(-06+20)	UCA AUA UGC UGC UUCCCA AAC UGA AA	No skipping
30	H3A(+37+61)	CUA GGA GGC GCC UCC CAU CCU GUA G	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 5

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 5 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H5A(+20+50) [SEQ ID NO:31] induces substantial exon 5 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of

100 nM. Table 7 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The majority of these antisense molecules were not as effective at exon skipping as H5A(+20+50). However, H5A (+15+45) [SEQ ID NO: 40] was able to induce exon 5 skipping at 300 nM.

Table 7 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 5 skipping.

TABLE 7

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
31	H5A(+20+50)	UUA UGA UUU CCA UCU AC AUG UCA GUA CUU C	G Working to 100 nM

300 nM

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TABLE 7-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name		uenc	e				111	ility to
32	H5D(+25-05)	CUU	ACC AUA	UGC	CAG	UGG A	AGG		ipping skipping
33	H5D(+10-15)	CAU	CAG	GAU G	ucu	UAC	CUG	Ind	consistent 300 nM
34	H5A(+10+34)	CGA	UGU UCA	CAG C	UAC	UUC	CAA	Ver	ry weak
35	H5D(-04-21)	ACC	AUU	CAU	CAG	GAU	UCU	No	skipping
36	H5D(+16-02)	ACC	UGC	CAG	UGG	AGG	AUU	No	skipping
37	H5A(-07+20)	CCA	AUA UGU	UUC	Acu	AAA	UCA		skipping
38	H5D(+18-12)	CAG GUG	GAU GAG	UCU GAU	UAC UAU	CUG	CCA	No	skipping
39	H5A(+05+35)	ACG AUA	AUG	UCA ACU	GUA AAA	cuu	CCA	No	skipping
40	H5A(+15+45)	AUU	uce	AUC	UAC	GAU	GUC	Wor	king to

AGU ACU UCC AAU A

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 10

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 10 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H10A(-05+16) [SEQ ID NO:41] induced substantial exon 10 skipping when delivered into cells. Table 8 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable. Table 8 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 10 skipping.

TABLE 8

	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e						lity to luce skipping
41	H10A(-05+16)	CAG	GAG	cuu	CCA	AAU	GCU	GÇA	Not	tested
42	H10A(-05+24)	CUU	GUC		AGG	AGC	uuc	CAA	Not	tested
43	H10A(+98+119)	ucc	UCA	GCA	GAA	AGA	AGC	CAC G	Not	tested
44	H10A(+130+149)	UUA	GAA	AUC	UCU	CCU	UGU	GC	No	skipping
45	H10A(-33-14)	UAA	AUU	GGG	UGU	UAC	ACA	AU	No	skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 11

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 11 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 8B shows an example of H11A(+75+97) [SEQ ID N0:49] antisense molecule inducing exon 11 skipping in cultured human cells. H11A(+75+97) induced substantial exon 11 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 9 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was observed at 100 nM.

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	Antisense	Sea	uenc			_	_	_	_#	: 31709)	
ID	Oligonucleotide name		-cnc	•						Ability	to	
46	H11D(+26+49)	ccc	UGA	GGC	2500	D.ST.	AUC	-		induce s	kip	ping
Toward Control		100								Skipping nM	at	100
47	H11D(+11-09)	AGG	ACU	UAC	UUG	CUU	UGU	טט		Skipping	at	100
48	H11A(+11B+140)	cuu	GAA	טטט	AGG	AGA	UUC	AUC	UG	Skipping	at	100
49	H11A(+75+97)	CAU	CUU	CUG	AUA	AUU	UUC	CUG	טט	Skipping	at	100
46	H11D(+26+49)	CCC	UGA	GGC	AUU	ccc	AUC	UUG		Skipping 5nM	at	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 12

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 12 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H12A(+52+75) [SEQ ID NO:50] induced substantial 25 exon 12 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM, as shown in FIG. 8A. Table 10 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable.

TABLE 10

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e		Ability to induce skipping
50	H12A(+52+75)	GUU	UCU AGC	100	UUU UCA	Skipping at 5 nM
51	H12A(-10+10)	Contract of	AUG AAU	UAA UU	ACU	Skipping at 100 nM
52	H12A(+11+30)	UUC	UGG AAA		ucc	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 13

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 13 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described ⁵ above.

H13A(+77+100) [SEQ ID NO:53] induced substantial exon 13 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 11 below includes two other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 11

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
53	H13A(+77+100)	CAG CAG UUG CGU GAU CUC CAC UAG	skipping at 5 nM

TABLE 11-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
54	H13A(+55+75)	UUC AUC AAC UAC CAC CAC CAU	No skipping
55	H13D(+06-19)	CUA AGC AAA AUA AUC UGA CCU UAA G	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 14

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 14 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H14A(+37+64) [SEQ ID NO:56] induced weak exon 14 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 12 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested.

TABLE 12

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e		Ability to induce skipping
56	H14A(+37+64)		AGC	AAA GGU	GAA CUU	Skipping at 100 nM
57	H14A(+14+35)			CAG		No skipping
58	H14A(+51+73)			UGU GAA		No skipping
59	H14D(-02+18)		UGU AGA	UCU CG	UCA	No skipping
60	H14D(+14-10)	~~~		ACA CAG		No skipping
61	H14A(+61+80)	CAU AUG		AGA UG	AGG	No akipping
52	H14A(-12+12)	AUC				No skipping

Antisense

Oligonucleotide

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SEO

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 15

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 15 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

HI5A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:63] and HI5A(+48+71 [SEQ ID NO:64] induced substantial exon 15 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 Nm, as shown in FIG. 9A. Table 13 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 Nm. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested

TABI		

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	Ability to induce skipping		
63	H15A(-12+19)	AAA	AUG GGC CAU	ACU	UAA GCA	Skipping at 5 Nm
64	H15A(+48+71)	UCU GUU			CCA AUC	Skipping at 5 Nm
65	H15A(+08+2B)	UUU AUG	CUG		GCC	No skipping
1	H15A(-12+19)				UAA GCA	No skipping
6	H15D(+17-08)		CAU	ACG UGA		No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 16

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 16 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H16A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:67] and H16A(-06+25) [SEQ ID NO:68] induced substantial exon 16 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM, as shown in FIG. 9B. Table 14 below includes other antisense molecules lested. H16A(-06+19) [SEQ ID NO:69] and H16A(+87+ 109) [SEQ ID NO:70] were tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These two antisense molecules were able to induce exon skipping at 25 nM and 100 nM, respectively. Additional antisense molecules were tested at 100, 200 and 300 nM and did not result in any exon skipping.

TABLE 14

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
67	H16A(-12+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AAA ACA A	skipping at 5 nM
68	H16A(-06+25)	UCU UUU CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A	skipping at 5 nM

TABLE 14-continued

Ability to

induce

1 2			Sequence	skipping
)	69	H16A(-06+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A	Skipping at 25 nM
10	70	H16A(+87+109)	CCG UCU UCU GGG UCA CUG ACU UA	Skipping at 100 nM
) e	71	H16A(-07+19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA	
15	72	H16A(-07+13)	CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA	No skipping
	73	H16A(+12+37)	UGG AUU GCU UUU UCU UUU CUA GAU CC	No skipping
20	74	H16A(+92+116)	CAU GCU UCC GUC UUC UGG GUC ACU G	
25	75	H16A(+45+67)	G AUC UUG UUU GAG UGA AUA CAG U	No skipping
	76	H16A(+105+126)	GUU AUC CAG CCA UGC UUC CGU C	No skipping
30	77	H16D(+05-20)	UGA UAA UUG GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU G	
	78	H16D(+12-11)	GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU GCU GUA C	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 19

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 19 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:79] induced substantial exon 19 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. This antisense molecule also showed very strong exon skipping at concentrations of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM.

FIG. 10 illustrates exon 19 and 20 skipping using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides, as tested using gel electrophoresis. It is interesting to note that it was not easy to induce exon 20 skipping using single antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] or H20A(+ 149+170) [SEQ ID NO:82], as illustrated in sections 2 and 3 of the gel shown in FIG. 10. Whereas, a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides was more efficient as can be seen in section 4 of FIG. 10 using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170). When the cocktail was used to target exon 19, skipping was even stronger (see section 5, FIG, 10).

FIG. 11 illustrates gel electrophoresis results of exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" The "weasels" were effective in skipping exons 19 and 20 at concentrations of 25, 50. 100, 300 and 600 nM. A further "weasel" sequence is shown in the last row of Table 3C. This compound should give good results.

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 20

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 20 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 5

None of the antisense oligonucleotides tested induced exon 20 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10, 25, 50, 300 or 600 nM (see Table 15). Antisense molecules H20A(-11+17) [SEQ ID NO:86] and H20D(+ 08-20) [SEQ ID NO:87] are yet to be tested.

However, a combination or "cocktail" of H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO: 81] and H20(+149+170) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 1:1, exhibited very strong exon skipping at a concentration of 100 nM and 600 nM. Further, a combination of antisense molecules H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:79], H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] and H20A(+149+ 170) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 2:1:1, induced very strong exon skipping at a concentration ranging from 10 nM to 600

SEQ ID	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Ability t induce Sequence skipping
31	H20A(+44+71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC No GAU CCA CCG GCU akipping GUU C
82	H20A(+147+168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG No UCA UCU GCU C skipping
83	H20A(+185+203)	UGA UGG GGU GGU No GGG UUG G skipping
34	H20A(-08+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC No ACC CUC UAG AAA skipping G
95	H20A(+30+53)	CCG GCU GUU CAG No
36	H20A(-11+17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC Not ACC CUC UAG AAA tested GAA A yet
97	H2OD(+08-20)	GAA GGA GAA GAG Not AUU CUU ACC UUA tested CAA A yet
81 & 82	H2OA(+44+71) & H2OA(+147+168)	CUG GCA GAA UUC Very GAU CCA CCG GCU strong GUU C skipping CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C
80, 81 82	H19A(+35+65); H20A(+44+71); H20A(+147+168)	GCC UGA GCU GAU Very CUG CUG GCA UCU strong UGC AGU U: skipping CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU
		GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C: CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 21

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 21 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H21A(+85+108) [SEQ ID NO:92] and H21A(+85+106) [SEQ ID NO:91] induced exon 21 skipping when delivered

into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 16 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping

TABLE 16

Antisense SEQ Oligonucleotide ID name		Sequence			Ability to induce skipping	
90	H21A(-06+16)	GCC	GCC GGU		cuu	Skips at
		CAU	CCU	GUG	C	600 nM
91	H21A(+85+106)	cug	CAU	CCA	GGA	Skips at
		ACA	UGG	GUC		50 nM
92	H21A(+65+10B)	GUC	UGC	AUC	CAG	Skips at
		GAA	CAU	GGG	UC	50 nM
93	H21A(+08+31)	GUU	GAA	GAU	CUG	Skips
		AUA	GCC	GGU	UGA	faintly to
94	H21D(+18-07)	UAC	UUA	CUG	ucu	No
	Sand of Sec. 4.18	1000	GCU	CUU	UCU	skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 22

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 22 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 30 above.

FIG. 12 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 22 acceptor splice site. H22A(+ 125+106) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ ID NO: 98] induce strong exon 22 skipping from 50 nM to 600 35 nM concentration.

H22A(+125+146) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ ID NO:98] induced exon 22 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 17 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping,

TABLE 17

Antisense SEQ oligonucleot ID name		e Sequence				Ability to induce skipping
95	H22A(+22+45)	CAC	UCA	UGG	UCU	No
		CCU	GAU	AGC	GCA	akipping
96	H22A(+125+146)	CUG	CAA	UUC	ccc	Skipping
		GAG	UCU	CUG	C	to 50 nM
97	H22A(+47+69)	ACU	GCU	GGA	CCC	Skipping
		AUG	UCC	UGA	UG	to 300 nM
98	H22A(+B0+101)	CUA	AGU	UGA	GGU	Skipping
	13/15/19/19/19	AUG	GAG	AGU	220	to 50 nM
99	H22D(+13-11)	UAU	UCA	CAG	ACC	No
		UGC	AAU	UCC	CC	skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 23

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 23 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 65 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

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Table 18 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping or are yet to be tested.

TABLE 18

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
100 H23A(+34+59)		ACA GUG GUG CUG AGA UAG UAU AGG CC	No skipping
101	H23A(+16+39)	UAG GCC ACU UUG UUG CUC UUG C	No Skipping
102	H23A(+72+90)	UUC AGA GGG CGC	No Skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 24

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 19 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 24 skipping.

TABLE 19

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e		Ability to induce skipping	35
103	H24A(+48+70)	GGG	CAG	GCC	AUU	Needs	
		CCU	CCU	UCA	GA	testing	
104	H24A(-02+22)	UCU	UCA	GGG	UUU	Needs	
		GUA	UGU	GAU	UCU	testing	40

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 25

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 25 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 20 below shows the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 25 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 25 skipping.

TABLE 20

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
105	H25A(+9+36)	CUG GGC UGA AUG GUC UGA AUA UCA CUG	
106	H25A(+131+156)	CUG UUG GCA CAU GUG AUC CCA CUG AG	
107	H25D(+16-08)	GUC UAU ACC UGU UGG CAC AUG UGA	Needs testing

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 26

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 21 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 26 skipping.

TABLE 21

10	_		200	
	SEQ	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
5	108	H26A(+132+156)	UGC UUU CUG UAA UUC AUC UGG AGU U	Needs testing
	109	H26A(-07+19)	CCU CCU UUC UGG CAU AGA CCU UCC AC	Needs testing
Q	110	H26A(+68+92)	UGU GUC AUC CAU UCG UGC AUC UCU G	Paint skipping at 600 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 27

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 22 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 27 skipping.

TABLE 22

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	
111 H27A(+82+106)		UUA AGG CCU CUU GUG CUA CAG GUG G	Needs testing	
112	H27A(-4+19)	GGG CCU CUU CUU UAG CUC UCU GA	Faint skipping at 600 and 300 nM	
113	H27D(+19-03)	GAC UUC CAA AGU CUU GCA UUU C	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 28

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 23 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 28 skipping.

TABLE 23

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
114	H28A(-05+19)	GCC AAC AUG CCC AAA CUU CCU AAG	v. strong skipping at 600 and

TABLE 23-continued

50 TABLE 24

				17	ADUD 24			
SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	5	SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
115	H28A(+99+124)	CAG AGA UUU CCU CAG CUC CGC CAG	Needs testing		117	H29A(+57+81)	UCC GCC AUC UGU UAG GGU CUG UGC C	Needs testing
116	H28D(+16-05)	CUU ACA UCU AGC ACC UCA GAG	v. strong skipping	10	118	H29A(+18+42)	AUU UGG GUU AUC CUC UGA AUG UCG C	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM
_			at 600 and 300 nM	15	119	H29D(+17-05)	CAU ACC UCU UCA UGU AGU UCC C	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 29

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 29 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 24 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 29 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 29 skipping. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 30

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 30 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 25 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 30 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 30 skipping.

TABLE 25

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
120	H30A(+122+147)	CAU UUG AGC UGC GUC CAC	Needs testing
121	H30A(+25+50)	UCC UGG GCA GAC UGG AUG CUC UGU UC	Very strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM.
122	H30D(+19-04)	UUG CCU GGG CUU CCU GAG GCA UU	Very strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 31

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 31 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 13 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 31 acceptor splice site and a "cocktail" of exon 31 antisense oligonucleotides at varying concentrations. H31D(+03-22) [SEQ ID NO:124] substantially induced exon 31 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 26 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 pM

These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 26

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
123	H31D(+06-18)	UUC UGA AAU AAC AUA UAC CUG UGC	Skipping to 300 nM
124	H31D(+03-22)	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G	Skipping to 20 nM

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TABLE 26-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce
125	H31A(+05+25)	CAC HIE HA	skipping
274		GAC UUG UCA AAU CAG AUU GGA	No skipping
126	H31D(+04-20)	GUU UCU GAA AUA ACA UAU ACC	Skipping to 300 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 32

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 32 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H32D(+04–16) [SEQ ID NO:127] and H32A(+49+73) [SEQ ID NO:130] induced exon 32 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM. Table 27 below also shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules did not show an ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 27

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	
127	H32D(+04+16)	CAC CAG AAA UAC AUA CCA CA	Skipping to 300 nM	
128	H32A(+151+170)	CAA UGA UUU AGC UGU GAC UG	No skipping	
129	H32A(10+32)	CGA AAC UUC AUG GAG ACA UCU UG	No skipping	
130	H32A(+49+73)	CUU GUA GAC GCU GCU CAA AAU UGG C	Skipping to 300 nM	

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 33

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 33 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 14 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 33 acceptor splice site. H33A(+64+88) [SEQ ID NO:134] substantially induced exon 33 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 28 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 28

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
131	H33D(+09-11)	CAU GCA CAC ACC UUU GCU CC	No skipping
132	H33A(+53+76)	UCU GUA CAA UCU GAC GUC CAG UCU	Skipping to 200 nM
133	H33A(+30+56)	GUG UUU AUC ACC AUU UCC ACU UCA	Skipping to 200 nM
134	H33A(+64+88)	GCG UCU GCU UUU UCU GUA CAA UCU G	Skipping to 10 nM

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 34

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 34 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Table 29 below includes antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 29

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
135	H34A(+83+104)	UCC AUA UCU GUA GCU GGC AGC C	No skipping
136	H34A(+143+165)	CCA GGC AAC UUC AGA AUC	No skipping
137	H34A(-20+10)	UUU CUG UUA CCU GAA AAG AAU UAU AAU GAA	Not tested
138	H34A(+46+70)	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G	Skipping to 300 nM
39	H34A(+95+120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG	Skipping to 300 nM
140	H34D(+10-20)	UUC AGU GAU AUA GGU UUU ACC UUU CCC CAG	Not tested
141	H34A(+72+96)	CUG UAG CUG CCA GCC AUU CUG UCA AG	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 35

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 35 were pre- 35 pared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 15 shows differing efficiencies of antisense molecules directed at exon 35 acceptor splice site. H35A(+24+ 43) [SEQ ID NO:144] substantially induced exon 35 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 30 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 30

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
142	H35A(+141+161)	UCU UCU GCU CGG GAG GUG ACA	Skipping to 20 nM
143	H35A(+116+135)	CCA GUU ACU AUU CAG AAG AC	No skipping
144	H35A(+24+43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 36

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 36 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

Antisense molecule H36A(+26+50) [SEQ ID NO:145] induced exon 36 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM, as shown in FIG. 16.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 37

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 37 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 17 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 37 acceptor splice site. H37A(+ 82+105) [SEQ ID NO:148] and H37A(+134+157) [SEQ ID NO:149] substantially induced exon 37 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 31 below shows the antisense molecules tested.

Skipping to 10 nM

US 10,227,590 B2

UUC UGU GUG AAA UGG CUG CAA AUC

TABLE 31	
Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
CGU GUA GAG UCC ACC UUU GGG CGU	No skipping
UAC UAA UUU CCU GCA GUG GUC ACC	Shinning to be

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 38

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Antisense oligonucleotide

H37A(+26+50)

H37A(+82+105)

H37A(+134+157)

name

SEQ ID

147

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 38 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 18 illustrates antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) [SEQ ID NO:152], directed at exon 38 acceptor splice site. 20 H38A(+88+112) substantially induced exon 38 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 32 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon skipping.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 40

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 40 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 19 illustrates antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) [SEQ ID NO:157] directed at exon 40 acceptor splice site. H40A(-05+17) and H40A(+129+153) [SEQ ID NO:158] both substantially induced exon 40 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM.

TABLE 32

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	ė	Ability to induce		uce				
150	H38A(-01+19)	CCU	UCA	AAG	GAA	UGG	AGG	cc	No skipp	ing	
151	H38A(+59+83)	UGC		AUU	UCA	GCC	ucc	AGU	Skipping	to 10	nM
152	H38A(+88+112)	UGA UCA	AGU C	CUU	ccu	cuu	UCA	GAU	Skipping	to 10	nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 39

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 39 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 45 above. above.

H39A(+62+85) [SEQ ID NO:153] induced exon 39 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 33 below shows the antisense molecules tested and 50 their ability to induce exon skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 42

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 42 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 20 illustrates antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) [SEQ ID NO:159], directed at exon 42 acceptor splice site. H42A(-4+23) and H42D(+19-02) [SEQ ID NO:161] both induced exon 42 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 34 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 42 skip-

TABLE 33

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	e					Ability to induce skipping
153	H39A(+62+85)	CUG	GCU	UUC	ncn	CAU	CUG	UGA	Skipping to 100 nM
154	H39A(+39+58)	GUU	GUA	AGU	UGU	cuc	cuc	מט	No skipping
155	H39A(+102+121)	UUG	ucu	GUA	ACA	GCU	GCU	GU	No skipping
156	H39D(+10-10)	GCU	CUA	AUA	CCU	UGA	GAG	CA	Skipping to 300 nM

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TABLE 34

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce
159	H42A(-4+23)	AUC GUU UCU UCA CGG ACA GUG UGG UGC	skipping Skipping to 5 nM
160	H42A(+86+109)	GGG CUU GUG AGA CAU GAG UGA	Skipping to 100 nM
161	H42D(+19-02)	A CCU UCA GAG GAC UCC UCU UGC	Skipping to 5 nM

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 43

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 43 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H43A(+101+120) [SEQ ID NO:163] induced exon 43 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 25 nM. Table 35 below includes the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 43 skipping.

TABLE 35

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
162	H43D(+10-15)	UAU GUG UUA CCU ACC CUU GUC GGU C	Skipping to 100 nM
163	H43A(+101+120)	GGA GAG AGC UUC CUG UAG CU	Skipping to 25 nM
164	H43A(+78+100)	UCA CCC UUU CCA CAG GCG UUG CA	Skipping to 200 n N

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 44

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 44 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for 40 the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 44 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 165 to 167 in Table 1A.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 45

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 45 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 45 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 207 to 211 in Table 1A. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 46

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 46 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 21 illustrates the efficiency of one antisense mol-45 ecule directed at exon 46 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H46A(+86+115) [SEQ ID NO:203] showed very strong ability to induce exon 46 skipping. Table 36 below includes antisense molecules tested. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 46 skipping.

TABLE 36

Antisense oligonucleotide name	Seq	uenc	9					Ability to induce skipping
H46D(+16-04)	UUA	ccu	UGA	CUU	GCU	CAA	GC	No skipping
H46A(+90+109)	UCC	AGG	טטכ	AAG	UGG	GAU	AC	No skipping
H46A(+86+115)				AGG	UUC	AAG	UGG GAU	Good skipping to 100 nM
H46A(+107+137)	1000			CUU	UUA	GUU	geu geu	Good skipping to 100 nM
	oligonucleotide name H46D(+16-04) H46A(+90+109) H46A(+86+115)	Oligonucleotide name Seq H46D(+16-04) UUA H46A(+90+109) UCC H46A(+86+115) CUC ACU H46A(+107+137) CAA	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU ACU AGC H46A(+107+137) CAA GCU	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU DGA H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG UUC H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU UCC ACU AGC	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU UGA CUU H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG UUC AAG H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU UCC AGG ACU AGC H46A(+107+137) CAA GCU UUU CUU	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU UCC AGG UUC ACU AGC H46A(+107+137) CAA GCU UUU CUU UUA	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU CAA H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU UCC AGG UUC AAG ACU AGC H46A(+107+137) CAA GCU UUU CUU UUA GUU	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H46D(+16-04) UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU CAA GC H46A(+90+109) UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU AC H46A(+86+115) CUC UUU UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU ACU AGC H46A(+107+137) CAA GCU UUU CUU UUA GUU GCU GCU

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SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleótide name	Sequence	Ability to induce
205	H46A(-10+20)		skipping
		UAU UCU UUU GUU CUU CUA GCC UGG AGA AAG	Weak skipping
206	H46A(+50+77)	CUG CUU CCU CCA ACC AUA AAA CAA	
		AUU C AUA AAA CAA	Weak skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 47

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 47 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H47A(+76+100) [SEQ ID NO:170] and H47A(-09+12) [SEQ ID NO:172] both induced exon 47 skipping when 20 human muscle cells using similar methods as described 25-02) [SEQ ID NO: 171] is yet to be prepared and tested.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 50

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 50 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

Antisense oligonucleotide molecule H50A(+02+30) 30 [SEQ ID NO: 173] was a strong inducer of exon skipping.

Further, H50A(+07+33) [SEQ ID NO:174] and H50D(+07-18) [SEQ ID NO:175] both induced exon 50 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM.

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 51

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 51 were preabove.

FIG. 22 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 51 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+66+90) [SEQ ID NO:180] showed 25 the stronger ability to induce exon 51 skipping. Table 37 below includes antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 51 skipping. The strongest inducers of exon skipping were antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+61+90) [SEQ ID NO: 179] and H51A(+66+95) [SEQ ID NO: 181].

TABLE 37

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
176	H51A(-01+25)	ACC AGA GUA ACA GUC UGA GUA GGA GC	Faint skipping
177	H51D(+16-07)	CUC AUA CCU UCU GCU UGA UGA UC	Skipping at 300 nM
178	H51A(+111+134)	UUC UGU CCA AGC CCG GUU GAA AUC	Needs re-testing
179	H51A(+61+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA GUU UGG	Very strong skipping
180	H51A(+66+90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA G	akipping
191	H51A(+66+95)	CUC CAA CAU CAA GGA AGA UGG CAU UUC UAG	Very strong skipping
182	H51D(+08-17)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC U	No skipping
183	H51A/D(+08-17) & (-15+?)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC UAG GAG CUA AAA	No skipping
184	H51A(+175+195)	CAC CCA CCA UCA GCC UCU GUG	No skipping
185	H51A(+199+220)	AUC AUC UCG UUG AUA	No akipping

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 52

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 52 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 5 above.

FIG. 22 also shows differing efficiencies of four antisense molecules directed at exon 52 acceptor splice site. The most

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effective antisense oligonucleotide for inducing exon 52 skipping was H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188).

Table 38 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 50 skipping. Antisense molecules H52A(+12+41) [SEQ ID NO:187] and H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188] showed the strongest exon 50 skipping at a concentration of 50 nM.

TABLE 38

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce
186	H52A(-07+14)	UCC UGC AUU GUU GCC UGU AAG	No skipping
187	H52A(+12+41)	UCC AAC UGG GGA CGC CUC UGU UCC AAA UCC	Very strong skipping
188	H52A(+17+37)	ACU GGG GAC GCC UCU GUU CCA	Skipping to
189	H52A(+93+112)	CCG UAA UGA UUG UUC UAG CC	No skipping
190	H52D (+05-15)	UGU UAA AAA ACU UAC UUC GA	No skipping

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 53

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 53 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 also shows antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] directed at exon 53 acceptor splice site. This antisense oligonucleotide was able to induce exon 53 skipping at 5, 100, 300 and 600 nM. A "cocktail" of three exon 53 antisense oligonucleotides: H53A(+23+47) [SEQ ID NO:195], H53A(+150+176) [SEQ ID NO:196] and H53D(+14-07) [SEQ ID NO:194], was also tested, as shown in FIG. 20 and exhibited an ability to induce exon skipping.

Table 39 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 53 skipping. Antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] induced the strongest exon 53 skipping.

TABLE 39

Antisense oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69)	Sequence						Ability to induce skipping
	CAU		1000	GUU	GCC	UCC	Faint skipping at 50 nM
H53A(+39+62)			ccu	ccg	GUU	CUG	Faint skipping at 50 nM
H53A(+39+69)	CAU				GCC G	ucc	Strong skipping to 50 nM
H53D(+14-07)	UAC UGA	UAA	ccu	UGG	מממ	CUG	Very faint skipping to 50 nM
H53A(+23+47)	100,000	2	C40-34		UUG		Very faint skipping to 50 nM
H53A(+150+176)				ACC	CUC	cuu	Very faint skipping to 50 nM
H53D(+20-05)	CUA			GUU	UCU	GUG	Not made yet
	oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) H53A(+39+62) H53A(+39+69) H53D(+14-07) H53A(+23+47) H53A(+23+47)	Oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) CAU GGU H53A(+39+62) CAU AAG H53A(+39+69) CAU GGU H53A(+14-07) UAC UGA H53A(+23+47) CUG UAC H53A(+150+176) UGU CCA H53D(+20-05) COA	Oligonucleotide name Sequence H53A(+45+69) CAU UCA GGU UCU H53A(+39+62) CUG UUG AAG GUG H53A(+39+69) CAU UCA GGU UCU H53D(+14-07) UAC UAA UGA H53A(+23+47) CUG AAG UAC UUC H53A(+150+176) UGU AUA CCA UGA H53D(+20-05) CUA ACC	Oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) CAU UCA ACU GGU UCU G H53A(+39+62) CUG UUG CCU AAG GUG H53A(+39+69) CAU UCA ACU GGU UCU GAA H53A(+19+69) UGA UGA H53A(+14-07) UAC UAA CCU UGA H53A(+23+47) CUG AAG GUG UAC UUC AUC H53A(+150+176) UGU AUA GGG CCA UGA CUC H53D(+20-05) CUA ACC UUG	Oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GGU UCU G H53A(+39+62) CUG UUG CCU CCG AAG GUG H53A(+39+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GGU UCU GAA GGU H53D(+14-07) UAC UAA CCU UGG UGA H53A(+23+47) CUG AAG GUG UUC UAC UUC AUC C H53A(+150+176) UGU AUA GGG ACC CCA UGA CUC H53D(+20-05) CUA ACC UUG GUU	Oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC GGU UCU G H53A(+39+62) CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC GGU UCU G H53A(+39+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC GGU UCU GAA GGU G H53D(+14-07) UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU UGA H53A(+23+47) CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C H53A(+150+176) UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CCA UGA CUC H53D(+20-05) CUA ACC UUG GUU UCU	Oligonucleotide name H53A(+45+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU G H53A(+39+62) CUG UUG CCU CCG GUU CUG AAG GUG H53A(+39+69) CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU GAA GGU G H53A(+14-07) UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA CCU UCG H53A(+23+47) CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UCG UUC AUC CCU UCG AUC CCU UCG UUC AUC CCU UCG UCC AUC CUU CCA UGA CCU UCG UUC CCA UGA CCU UCG UUC UCC AUC CCU UCG UCC UUC CCA UGA CCU UCG UUC UCC UUC CCA UGA CCU UCG UUC UCC UUC GUG UCC UCC UUC GUG UCC UUC GUG UCC UCC

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TABLE 39-continued

SEQ ID	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce
198	H53D(+09-18)	GGU AUC UUU GAU ACU AAC CUU GGU UUC	Faint at 600 nM
199	H53A(-12+10)	AUU CUU UCA ACU AGA AUA AAA G	No skipping
200	H53A(-07+18)	GAU UCU GAA UUG UUU CAA CUA GAA U	No skipping
201	H53A(+07+26)	AUC CCA CUG AUU CUG AAU	No skipping
202	H53A(+124+145)	UUG GCU CUG GCC UGU CCU	No skipping

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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     oligonucleotide
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1213 ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

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  <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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                                                                     23
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 <212> TYPE: RNA
 <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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                                                                         25
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 <212 TYPE: RNA
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67

oligonucleotide

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*400 > SEQUENCE: 15

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      oligonucleotide
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uuugaccuac auguggaaag
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212> TYPE: RNA
213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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.220> FEATURE:

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24

70

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<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide

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<220> FEATURE .

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide

<212> TYPE: RNA

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 <400> SEQUENCE: 23
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     oligonucleotide
<400> SEQUENCE: 26
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<210> SEQ ID NO 27
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73

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74
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(2233 OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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*400> SEQUENCE: 49
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 213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
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220> FEATURE:
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:212> TYPE: RNA
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     oligonucleotide
<400> SEQUENCE: 66
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guacauacgg ccaguuuuug aagac
4210 > SEQ ID NO 67
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*213 » ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220 > FEATURE:
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400 > SEQUENCE: 83
  ugauggggug guggguugg
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       oligonucleotide
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auucgaucca ccggcuguuc
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<400 > SEQUENCE: 92
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<211 > LENGTH: 24
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<220 > FEATURE:
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cugcaauuce eegagueueu ge
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acugeuggae ceaugueeug aug
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<400 > SEQUENCE: 99
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<212 - TYPE: RNA
(213) ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
CZZ3> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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     oligonucleotide
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<220> FEATURE:
<223 > OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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     oligonucleotide
<400 > SEQUENCE: 109
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<211 > LENGTH: 25
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<223 > OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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     oligonucleotide
<400 > SEQUENCE: 111
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unaaggeeue uugugeuaea ggugg
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<212  TYPE: RNA
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<220 > FEATURE :
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     oligonucleotide
<400 > SEQUENCE: 115
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cagagauuuc cucagcuccg ccagga
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<211 > LENGTH: 21
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<223 x OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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     oligonucleotide
<400 > SEQUENCE: 116
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cuuacaucua gcaccucaga g
<210 > SEQ ID NO 117
<211 > LENGTH: 25
<212 > TYPE: RNA
<213 » ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<223 » OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
     Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense
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106 -continued oligonucleotide 400> SEQUENCE: 117 ucegecaucu guuagggueu gugee 25 <210 > SEQ ID NO 118 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220 > FEATURE: 223 OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide 400 > SEQUENCE: 118 auuuggguua uccucugaau gucge 25 <210 > SEQ ID NO 119 <211> LENGTH: 22 <212> TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 119 cauaccucuu cauguaguuc cc 22 <210 > SEQ ID NO 120 <211 > LENGTH: 26 <212> TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 120 26 cauuugageu gegueeaceu ugueug <210 > SEQ ID NO 121 <211> LENGTH: 26 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence 0223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400 > SEQUENCE: 121 26 uccugggeag acuggaugeu cuguuc <210> SEQ ID NO 122 *211 > LENGTH: 23 «212» TYPE: RNA <213 » ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 122 23 ungconggge uncongagge auu *210 > SEQ ID NO 123 *211 > LENGTH: 24

107 108 -continued <212 > TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220 > FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 123 uucugaaaua acauauaccu guge 24 <210> SEQ ID NO 124 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: 223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400 > SEQUENCE: 124 uaguuucuga aauaacauau accug 25 :210 > SEQ ID NO 125 c211> LENGTH: 21 212> TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220 > FEATURE: 4223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 125 gacuugucaa aucagauugg a 21 <210 > SEQ ID NO 126 x211 > LENGTH: 24 212 TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220 > FEATURE : <223 > OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 126 24 guuucugaaa uaacauauac cugu <210> SEQ ID NO 127 <211 > LENGTH: 20 <212> TYPE: RNA (213) ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 127 20 raccagaaau acauaccaca <210 > SEQ ID NO 128 <211 > LENGTH: 20 <212 = TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic

Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense

oligonucleotide

400 > SEQUENCE: 128

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caaugauuua gcugugacug
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213 ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
*223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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      oligonucleotide
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213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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-210 - SEO ID NO 140
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ugugaugugg uccacauucu gguca
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212 TYPE: RNA
213 » ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
220 > FEATURE:
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 <220> FEATURE:
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       oligonucleotide
 <400> SEQUENCE: 152
 ugaagucuuc cucuuucaga uucac
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 <212> TYPE: RNA
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<210 > SEQ ID NO 158 <211 > LENGTH: 25 <212 > TYPE: RNA

<220> FEATURE:

US 10,227,590 B2 120 -continued <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothioate antisense 22 25 27 24

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<220 > FEATURE:
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<212> TYPE: RNA
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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<211 > LENGTH: 20
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213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
220 > FEATURE:
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     oligonucleotide
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210 > SEQ ID NO 168
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212 TYPE: RNA
213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
220 > FEATURE:
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<212 > TYPE: RNA
<213 - ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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<400 > SEQUENCE: 172
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210 > SEQ ID NO 173
211 > LENGTH: 29
212 - TYPE: RNA
213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
     Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense
     oligonucleotide
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cacucagag cucagaucuu cuaacuucc
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oligonucleotide

126 -continued <210 > SEQ ID NO 174 <211 > LENGTH: 27 <212 > TYPE: RNA 2113 ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence 220 > FEATURE: 2233 OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense 400 > SEQUENCE: 174 cuuccacuca gagcucagau cuucuaa 27 <210 > SEQ ID NO 175 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA c213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: c223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 175 gggauccagu auacuuacag gcucc 25 <210 > SEQ ID NO 176 <211 > LENGTH: 26 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence 220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 176 accagaguaa cagucugagu aggagc 26 <210 > SEQ ID NO 177 #211> LENGTH: 23 <212> TYPE: RNA :213. ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence \$220 > PEATURE. <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400 > SEQUENCE: 177 23 cucauaceuu cuqcuuqauq auc <210 > SEQ ID NO 178 <211 > LENGTH: 24 <212> TYPE: RNA <213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 178 24 uucuguccaa geeegguuga aauc <210> SEQ ID NO 179 <211 - LENGTH: 30 *212 - TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence *223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense

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130 -continued <220> FEATURE: <220> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense 400> SEQUENCE: 185 aucaucucgu ugauauccuc aa 22 <210> SEQ ID NO 186 (211 > LENGTH: 21 <212 > TYPE: RNA 213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 186 uccugcauug uugccuguaa g 21 <210> SEQ ID NO 187 <211 > LENGTH: 30 <212 TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 187 uccaacuggg gacgccucug uuccaaauce 30 <210> SEQ ID NO 188 211 > LENGTH: 21 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 188 21 acuggggacg ccucuguucc a *210 > SEQ ID NO 189 <211 > LENGTH: 20 <212> TYPE: RNA 1213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence (220 > PEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotide 400> SEQUENCE: 189 20 ceguaaugau uguucuagee *210 > SEQ ID NO 190 *211 > LENGTH: 20 <212 » TYPE: RNA (213) ORGANISM; Artificial Sequence *223 OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotide <400> SEQUENCE: 190 20 uguuaaaaaa cuuacuucga

<212> TYPE: RNA

<220> FEATURE:

oligonucleotide

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

*223> OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic

Human 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense

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132 -continued <210> SEQ ID NO 191 <211> LENGTH: 25 <212> TYPE: RNA 213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence <220> FEATURE: <220> FEATURE.
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gauucugaau ucuuucaacu agaau
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<2233 OTHER INFORMATION: Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
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aucceacuga uucugaauuc
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*212 TYPE: RNA
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ccaaugecau ceuggaguue euguaa
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140 -continued <400 > SEQUENCE: 213 ucaugcacug agugaccucu uucucgcagg egcuagcugg agca <210> SEQ ID NO 214 <211> LENGTH: 22 <212> TYPE: RNA <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens <400> SEQUENCE: 214 cegugeagae ugaeggueue au

What is claimed is:

1. An antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 31 bases comprising a base sequence that is 100% complementary to consecutive bases of a target region of exon 53 of the human dystrophin pre-mRNA, wherein the base sequence com-prises at least 12 consecutive bases of CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C (SEQ ID NO: 195), in which uracil bases are thymine bases, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a morpholino antisense oligonucleotide, and

2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising: (i) an antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 31 bases comprising a base

sequence that is 100% complementary to consecutive bases of a target region of exon 53 of the human dystrophin pre-mRNA, wherein the base sequence comprises at least 12 consecutive bases of CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C (SEQ ID NO: 195), in which uracil bases are thymine bases, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a morpholino antisense oligonucleotide, and wherein the antisense oligonucleotide induces exon 53 skipping, or a pharwherein the antisense oligonucleotide induces exon 53 skip25 maceutically acceptable salt thereof; and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.